More unemployment aid pushed. PAGE 2
Guam logs 152nd, 153rd COVID deaths. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

$1

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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80% may be achieved today

By JOSHUA SANTOS
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REPORTER

Muña

The CNMI appears to be on track to hit its target of having 80% of its eligible population vaccinated against COVID-19 as soon as today.

» Delta variant still a concern
» No changes to health protocols

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muña is quick to caution, though, that the threat of

See 80% on Page 4

First responders nationwide resist COVID vaccine mandates

By STEFANIE DAZIO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

March 11, 2021. It was supposed to be a turning point in the coronavirus pandemic for Erin Tokley, a longtime

See VACCINE on Page 4

AP

In this Jan. 27, 2021, file photo, firefighter Adam Brandos, right, receives his second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine from Michael Perez at a fire station in Los Angeles.

Magofna, Vaiagae draw ballot slots

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Corina L. Magofna of the NMI Democratic Party will be No. 1 on the ballot, while Grace "Pitu" Sablan Vaiagae of the NMI Re-

Magofna

Vaiagae

publican Party will be No. 2 when they square off on Oct. 16 for the special election to fill a House of Representatives Precinct 3 seat.

See MAGOFNA on Page 4

APARTMENT FIRE
Smoke billows out of a portion of the Casa De Felipe apartments in Garapan as firetrucks of the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services rush in to put out the blaze. The fire was contained in one portion of the building and no one was hurt.

Story on Page 2

PATRICK FIELDAD

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

AT A GLANCE

As of 5:07pm, Sept. 8, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Fully Vaccinated:	79.8%
Days since last community transmission	169

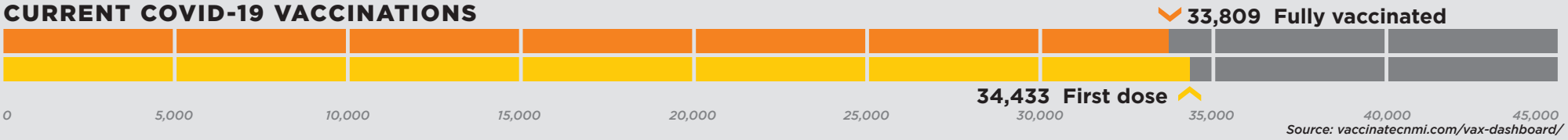
Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	29,624
Fully Vaccinated:	28,744
Moderna	
Initiated:	4,809
Fully Vaccinated:	4,298
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	767

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	11,434	60	11,494
Recovered	9,126	161	9,287
Active	1,994	60	2,054
Deaths	151	2	153

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	248	0	248
Traced via Travel Screening	211	0	211
Traced via Community Screening	37	0	37
Deaths	2	0	2

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS



Source: vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

INSIDE

LOCAL
Highway Express Auto Care Center and D' Chef's Kitchen are now ProaPerks partners.

PAGE 6

BUSINESS
Jobless Americans have few options left after losing their unemployment benefits last Monday.

PAGE 11

ENVIRONMENT
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is urged to do the right thing on a WWII hospital dump.

PAGE 14

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Local

Fire hits portion of Casa De Felipe in Garapan

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A portion of the Casa De Felipe apartments in Garapan went up in flames yesterday for reasons yet to be determined by the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services. Fortunately, the fire was contained in one portion of the residence and no one perished as a result of the fire.

According to Amore Tamayo, one of the tenants of Casa De Felipe and the woman who first raised the alarm, said the fire started after what sounded to her like an electrical explosion.

Tamayo said she discovered the fire while she was just outside of her apartment preparing lunch at around 11:40am. She recalls the first fire truck arriving on scene shortly after at around 12pm.

"I was about to cook lunch and then I heard an explosion, or like when an electric wire pops, so I checked outside and the lights started to flicker. I waited it out a little bit and tried to continue cooking but then, I heard an even louder explosion and then I got nervous. I took out my phone to call my husband but then I saw a light from the storage room. I was wondering why someone would turn on what looked like a lamp in the storage room because the light was coming from the floor. I checked on it more closely and that's when I saw a fire at the corner of the storage room," she said.

Tamayo said the storage room, which doubles as a laundry room, served mainly as a storage space for old beds, mattresses, linens, and other utilities, which could have been the reason why the fire spread so quickly.

"I panicked, I messaged the owner asking for help because the storage room was on fire at this point. The landlord arrived here quickly and he and some others grabbed fire extinguishers to put out the fire but the fire was spreading too fast and had gotten so big so we couldn't get in anymore," she said.

While the landlord and others tried to put out the fire, Tamayo said she started shouting "Fire! Fire!" to warn everyone who was still at home.

"Most of the people were either at work or in school. Thankfully, no one got hurt and everyone was able to get out when they did. Thankfully it was just the storage room that was burned," she said.

According to another tenant, Lenie Bedia-Iparab, she could smell the fumes of the fire from her apartment, which was on the second floor. Fortunately for her and her two children, neighbors acted quickly to help everyone get to safety.

At the scene, *Saipan Tribune* learned that the fire was completely extinguished at around 12:40pm.

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More unemployment aid pushed

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
Kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With members of the CNMI community still struggling to get back to their feet due to lack of jobs because of the closure of tourism-related industries as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the CNMI Department of Labor is right now working on possibly extending unemployment assistance.

According to Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente, although the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program already ended last week, DOL continues to report job losses due to business closures to the U.S. Department of Labor in an attempt to plead their case that extended unemployment assistance is crucial to the CNMI community.

"We are reporting these numbers and this data to USDOL and we are trying to work something out but I won't mention what we're trying to work out until we get confirmation from our federal partners," she said.

"Tough is an understatement. It's going to be really hard to get jobs until our tourism industry comes back and we're really pushing the fact that the CNMI, as a destination, is safe for our market, particularly South Korea, Japan, and China. It really depends on our destination market. We just need to continue to keep our islands safe and our people safe and hopefully our destination markets will come back because without that, our tourism industry will continue to be stagnant and many people will still be out of jobs," she added.

Benavente said employment opportunities in construction and retail have increased but, again, with hotel and transportation, until tourism completely opens back up, the CNMI won't see these industries pick up.

Meanwhile, Benavente shared some insight on DOL's experience with the first implementation of PUA and the experience was tough, to say the least.

"We have learned many lessons. Let me first repeat the fact that when we were given approval to proceed with the PUA program in March 2020 and opened in June 2020, that gave us 90 days to create and implement a program that usually takes two years to actually build from scratch. The experience taught us that preparation, communication, and cooperation is key," she said.

"When you ask me what the experience was like, it was difficult, and I'm sure it has been difficult for our people who have been waiting for PUA benefits, waiting because they didn't understand the program requirements or they didn't understand why they had to get letters and check stubs. It was a difficult procedure," she added.

Despite the difficulties, Benavente said DOL learned a lot and hopes to improve the program for future implementations.

"I want to say that we have some lessons under our belt but we still have a long way to go with regards to making this program a bit more easy to implement and to make it easier for our people to be assisted, so we're still working on our process and learning what works and what doesn't. A big shout out to [those] who have been so patient with us, who have conformed to all the requirements, a big shout out to those who are also under a lot of stress and are hurting because they lost a job or reduction in hours. There's a lot of them but they still continue to be polite and to be patient, and shout out to the community for supporting the CNMI in its endeavors to implement this program to our people," she said.

Guam logs 152nd, 153rd COVID deaths

» 'CNMI COVID-19 protocols are working'

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Joint Information Center in Guam reported Tuesday the island's 152nd and 153rd COVID-19-related deaths, and that there are currently 63 individuals who are hospitalized due to COVID-19. Of the 63 hospitalized, 31 are unvaccinated.

Guam's 152nd COVID-19-related death was an unvaccinated 70-year-old male who had tested positive for COVID-19. He was pronounced dead at the Guam Memorial Hospital on Sept. 5. Guam identified its 153rd COVID-19-related death after reviewing past death certificates. The patient was an unvaccinated 34-year-old woman who had tested positive for COVID-19 and was pronounced dead on arrival at GMH on Aug. 25.

Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero offered her condolences and said that the virus "knows no bounds."

"Our hearts go out to the loved ones of those lost to this deadly virus. COVID-19 knows no bounds; with no location completely free of it, no age completely safe from it. Because of this, we must create boundaries around our community. We can do this by getting vaccinated, wearing our masks around those outside of our household, and practicing social distancing," said Leon Guerrero.

In related news, during a virtual news briefing yesterday, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muña said she believes the CNMI's current COVID-19 protocols are working, and added that CHCC and the CNMI's other health policy leaders are closely monitoring the COVID-19 situations of other islands in the region.

"We're watching what's happening in Guam and what's happening in Hawaii, and the protocols that we have set [for the CNMI], in my opinion, are working. ...We're trying to identify individuals [who test positive for COVID-19], and we've identified them on arrival or on Day 5 [of quarantine]. ...We're still doing community-based testing, testing at the hospital facility, in schools, and we are still identifying [individuals with COVID-19] that are arriving at the airport," said Muña.

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VACCINE

From Page 1

Philadelphia police officer, Baptist minister and 47-year-old father of three. It was supposed to be the day of his vaccine appointment.

Instead it was the date of his funeral.

Tokley—"Toke" to his friends and family—died on March 3, becoming the Philadelphia Police Department's sixth confirmed COVID-19 death.

Philadelphia officers first became eligible for their shots in late January and Tokley was eager to get it as soon as he could. But he fell ill in early February, before it was his turn to roll up his sleeve.

The resurgence of COVID-19 this summer and the national debate over vaccine requirements have created a fraught situation for the nation's first responders, who are dying in larger numbers but pushing back against mandates.

It's a heartbreaking situation for Tokley's widow, Octavia, as the 21st anniversary of their first date approaches on Sept. 10. She said she has moved beyond her anger at other police officers who are refusing the vaccine, and is now disappointed. Her husband's life couldn't be saved, but theirs still can.

"I don't want to have to be there to support your family for this," she said. "Nobody deserves this, especially when it can be prevented."

Her husband is one of 132 members of law enforcement agencies who are known to have died of COVID-19 in 2021, as of Monday, according to the Officer Down Memorial Page. In Florida alone last month, six people affiliated with law enforcement died over a 10-day period.

In the first half of 2021, 71 law enforcement officials in the U.S. died from the virus—a small decrease compared to the 76 who died in the same time period in 2020, per data compiled by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund. Last year, the total figure was 241—making the virus the the leading cause of law enforcement line-of-duty deaths.

Despite the deaths, police officers and other first responders are among those most hesitant to get the vaccine and their cases continue to grow. No national statistics show the vaccination rate for America's entire population of first responders but individual police and fire departments across the country report figures far below the national rate of 74% of adults who have had at least one dose.

Frustrated city leaders are enacting mandates for their municipal employees—including police officers and firefighters—as the delta variant surges. The mandates' consequences range from weekly testing to suspension to termination. It's a stark contrast from the beginning of the vaccine rollout when first responders were prioritized for shots.

"It makes me sad that they don't see it as another safety precaution," Octavia Tokley said. "You wear masks, you wear bulletproof vests. You protect each other. That's what you do, you protect and you serve."

Nearly 3,000 miles (4,828 kilometers) away, San Francisco firefighter Christopher Salas offers his condolences to Tokley's family. "I feel for her, I feel for her husband," he said.

Salas, 58, has nearly 28 years on the job—21 of them in the city's tough Tenderloin district. He wears a mask and washes his hands and sanitizes himself. But he stops short at getting the shot—and plans to retire early instead of acquiescing to the city's ultimatum of get vaccinated or get terminated.

"I'm not an anti-vaxxer," he said. "I have all my other vaccines. I'm just not taking this one."

He considered it, just to be able to finish out his career with three decades of service. But after praying about it with his wife, he remains concerned about the efficacy and side effects of the vaccine.

"I don't think I'd be comfortable with myself if I did something that went against my belief," he said of getting the vaccine. "It's about liberty and having your own choice to be your own person."

Public health professionals and elected officials, however, contend that it's bigger than that.

Dr. Jennifer Bryan, a family physician and member of the Mississippi State Medical Association's Board of Trustees, says she's working to change minds a half-hour appointment at a time in a state with one of the lowest vaccination rates in the country. With first responders, she reminds them that they can become patients, too.

"It's harder when you want to protect those who are on the front lines," she said. "When you share air with someone, there's a risk. If you share more air with sick people and your job is more public-facing, then you are at risk."

"This vaccine really is about not just protecting yourself but protecting your coworkers, your community, people who go to your church, people in your kids' school," said Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan, whose city requires all employees to be fully vaccinated by Oct. 18 or face termination.

Unions across the country are fighting back. Shon Buford, president of San Francisco Firefighters Local 798, is urging city leaders to delay their Oct. 13 vaccinate-or-terminate deadline.

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80%

From Page 1

the highly transmissible delta variant and other emerging variants of the COVID-19 virus still remain rampant globally, so there will be no immediate changes to the CNMI's COVID-19 protocols even if it claims herd immunity.

In a virtual news briefing yesterday ahead of the CNMI reaching 80%, Muña said the CNMI is only around 100 people away from 80% of the eligible population being fully vaccinated against COVID-19, a point at which the CNMI can claim herd immunity against COVID-19.

"Herd immunity" refers to a form of indirect disease/infection protection that is achieved when a certain percentage of a population has become immune to an infection either through vaccination or past exposure to an infection/disease, reducing the chances of community spread and allowing those with no immunity to remain healthy without receiving a vaccine shot or being exposed to disease.

Muña said there will be no immediate changes to the CNMI's COVID-19 protocols and added that she remains "very cautious" in saying that 80% is the CNMI's herd immunity goal, citing that many in the community are still not vaccinated and the prominence of the highly infectious delta variant outside the CNMI.

"Right now, there's going to be no immediate changes [to protocols]. ...Going back to previous interviews, I am very cautious in saying that 80% is our herd immunity [goal] for the CNMI. ...It's hard for us to say that there's herd immunity when you have a large number of individuals that are still not vaccinated," said Muña.

"When we set the [herd immunity goal] of 80% back in March and April, the delta variant was not in the picture. The fact that [the delta variant] is highly infectious, has a shorter incubation period, [and] the fact that it can spread rapidly to the unvaccinated [are] things that we have to take into account for this community," she added.

Muña acknowledged that reaching 80% vaccinated is a significant achievement for the CNMI but again makes clear that she and CHCC remain on high alert.

"Eighty percent is a significant number, but unfortunately there's still a lot of individuals that are not [vaccinated]. ...The delta variant is different, [and] it does worry us. ...We [don't want] our doctors overwhelmed, especially if there is community transmission and an increase in hospitalizations. When you're seeing what's happening in Guam and in Hawaii where they're running out of beds, we don't want to be in that position," said Muña.

Guam, which has already vaccinated more than 80% of its eligible population, has lately been recording increasing numbers of daily infections, much of it blamed on the delta variant's spread in the community.

MAGOFNA

From Page 1

Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Kayla Igitol said that Magofna picked her own number during the drawing of the candidates' slot on the ballots yesterday, while Vaiagae's son picked his mother's number.

Present for the Democratic Party at the drawing held at CEC's office in Susupe were Magofna, Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan), former representative Franklin Babauta, and Luella Marciano. Present for the Republican Party were Vaiagae, Vaiagae's husband and son, and Darren Flores.

The CEC board of commissioners will hold a meeting tomorrow, Friday, at 3pm, at the CEC conference room in Susupe, where they are expected to certify the candidacy of Magofna and Vaiagae. The commissioners are also going to approve the ballot layout and the designated polling places.

The proposed polling place for early voting will be near the Carolinian Affairs Office in Garapan, which was also the venue of early voting during the March 2019 special election.

On election day, the proposed polling place will be Oleai Elementary School for San Jose Precinct 3A, and Garapan Elementary School for Precinct 3B Garapan.

The manual counting of votes will likely be at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Registration is still ongoing and the last day to register is Sept. 17. The seven-day early voting will start on Oct. 9. The deadline to request for an absentee ballot is Sept 21.

The special election is being held to fill the Precinct 3 seat left vacant by the sudden passing of representative Ivan A. Blanco.

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Highway Express, D' Chef's Kitchen join ProaPerks program

Highway Express Auto Care Center and D' Chef's Kitchen are the latest companies to sign on as Northern Marianas College ProaPerks partners, joining many other businesses and organizations that provide exclusive discounts and benefits for NMC students, employees, and alumni.

All card-carrying members of the NMC ProaPerks program can now receive a 15% discount at Highway Express Auto Care Center. ProaPerks members can also get one tire free with a purchase of three tires. At D' Chef's Kitchen, NMC ProaPerks members can avail of a 5% discount on food and beverages every Wednesday.

Highway Express Auto Care Center is located on Middle Road, next to the Shell gas station. D' Chef's Kitchen is located at the Kada Dia Market in Chalan Kanoa.

Both companies join the growing list of ProaPerks partners, such as 153 Restaurant, 360 Restaurant, 4EVER CNMI, Alamo Car Rental, AllStar Sporting Goods, Aqua Connections, Inc., Athlete's Foot, Avis Rent A Car, BAB Korean Restaurant Cup Bab, Chagi Norf Kitchen, Boarderline, Bolis R US 2, Bubba Gump, Candle J, Caravan of Food, Casa Urashima, Chelu Alynez Enterprise, Chungi Wa Korean Restaurant, Coral Garden Hotel, Docomo Pacific, Dollar Days, Enterprise Car Rental, Ete Cafe, Fishing Tackle and Sporting Goods, Fork and Spoon, Garapan Restaurant Cafe & Grill, Gold's Gym, Grandvrio Resort Saipan, Great Harvest, Boyer Trading Company LLC. dba Ginen Saipan, Ha'ani Company, Healing Stones Spa, Herman's Modern Bakery, Inc./Tan Marikita's Cafe, Hertz Rental Car, Hyatt, Ice Island Coffee & Ice Deserts, Ina's Kitchen, Isla Shave Ice, International Roller Skates, Java Joe's, JC Cafe, Jhen's Sweet Corner Cakes, Judy's Cafe & Restaurant, Junlyn Salon, Kentucky Fried Chicken/ Taco Bell, Kiki's, Latte Build Gym, Lohas Massage, Lohas Nails, Lucky Store, Lucky II Mart, Magbers Snack Bar, Mama D's Cafe, Marianas Creation, MMC & Pacific Labs, LLC, Megabyte, Mermaid Restaurant & Milk tea, Micafe Snack Corner, Nam Dae Moon, National Car Rental, Natural Nail & Spa, Neni Girl Nails, NMC Bookstore, Ocean Candy, Ocean Star Restaurant, Pacific Home Appliances, Pena House Boutique, Pizzeria Bar & Grill, Pokiyaki, Saipan Computer Services, Shirley's Cafe, Salty's, Summer Snow Cafe & Kids Corner cafe, Surf Club, The Ohala Foundation Clothing, The Pacific Supply, The Shack, Tinian Diamond Hotel, Tom Yum Restaurant, Tribe Marianas, and Triple J Motors.

NMC is in the introductory phase of rolling out the ProaPerks to alumni, students, and employees. For more information, visit marianas.edu/proaperks.

Companies and other interested organizations who would like to become part of the ProaPerks program and take advantage of the buying power of thousands of individuals that include Northern Marianas College alumni, students, and employees, can find more information by emailing proaperks@marianas.edu. ***(PR)***

Highway Express Auto Care Center is now a proud NMC ProaPerks partner.

NMC

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TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES ON BUDGET BILL FOR FY 2022

Hofschneider appoints Hocog to lead Senate conferees

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) has appointed four senators that will represent the Senate on the bicameral conference committee that will be tasked with hammering out a mutually acceptable budget bill for the CNMI government operations in fiscal year 2022.

Hofschneider

Sen. Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota) will lead the group as the Senate chairperson, while Sen. Justo S. Quitugua (R-Saipan) will be the vice chairperson, Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian) will be a member, and Sen. Karl R. King-Nabors (R-Tinian) will be the alternate member.

There is no schedule yet on when the conference committee will meet.

Hofschneider made the appointments after the House rejected last Aug. 31 the Senate's proposed version of the budget bill, House Bill 22-74, HD3, SD1.

Hocog

Hofschneider also instructed Senate legal counsel Jose A. Bermudes, fiscal analyst Dave Demapan, and legislative assistants Jolyn B. Duenas-Tagabuel and Tiarra R. Blanco to assist the Senate conferees.

"I am confident that our Senate conferees will work cooperatively to resolve any differences with the House conferees in a timely manner to formally act on the FY 2022 CNMI budget," Hofschneider said in a letter to House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) dated Aug. 31.

Villagomez has already named Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) as chairperson of the House conferees. The other House conferees are Rep. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan) as vice chairperson, Rep. Leila Staffler (D-Saipan) as member, and Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan) as an alternate.

A conference committee refers to a joint committee appointed by the House speaker and the Senate president to resolve disagreements on a specific bill. In this case, the conference committee will be working on a deadline to ensure that they come up with a budget bill that the Legislature will pass and bring to the table of Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres before the fiscal year ends on Sept. 30, 2021.

Without a budget for the new fiscal year, the CNMI government will be forced to have a partial shutdown.

At the Aug. 31 House session, 15 representatives present voted to reject the Senate's version of the $144.84 million budget bill for fiscal year 2022. Only Rep. Patrick H. San Nicolas (R-Tinian) voted "no" to the rejection.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

NMI Red Cross volunteer deploys to help Calif. fire victims

As Northern California battles wildfires and assists affected residents, a call to get volunteers out on assignment to help with relief efforts was made. Richard Defan, a local volunteer from the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter responded to the call.

Defan

With a 24-hour window to prepare and get on a plane to California, Defan was ready and willing to lend a hand. He deployed for four weeks and will be working in the Northern California and Reno, Nevada areas.

Defan has been an active volunteer since 2017 and has worked on numerous operations, including Super Typhoon Yutu.

For information about how to support and volunteer for the Red Cross, call 234-3459. ***(PR)***

Community asked to take survey on resources for those with disabilities

ON THE NET
https://tinyurl.com/cnmineeds2021

The Northern Marianas College's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities is asking CNMI residents to complete a Community UCEDD Needs Assessment to assess the resources for the next five-year grant cycle.

The information collected will be used to address disability concerns in the community; align and leverage resources; and contribute to the work scope creation for the CNMI.

The deadline for completing the survey is Friday, Sept.17, 2021. To complete the survey, go to: https://tinyurl.com/cnmineeds2021

The CNMI UCEDD is part of the Pacific Basin University Centers for Excellence that consists of two sites: American Samoa and the CNMI.

The PBUCE's goal is to strengthen governance within and across sites (NMC and American Samoa Community College) through regional and national partnerships, while building local capacity for interdisciplinary preservice and community outreach training to include consumers and family members.

Both sites work to provide service based on demonstrated culturally competent practices in order to support individuals with disabilities who are unserved and underserved at PBUCE sites and across the region.

The aim is to provide people with disabilities access to support and services that will increase community inclusion.

For more information, call UCEDD at 234-5498 ext. 6801 or email cnmi.ucedd@marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

4.6-magnitude quake in Pagan region

At 11:33am on Sept. 8 2021, a report of a 4.6-magnitude earthquake occurred at 18.649°N 145.811°E in the Pagan region. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or advisories that were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. ***(PR)***

CHamoru commission meeting today

The *Kumisión i Fino' CHamoru yan i Fina'nå'guen i Historia yan i Lina'la' i Taotao Tåno'* (Commission on CHamoru Language and the Teaching of the History and Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam) will hold its September monthly meeting today, Sept. 9, 2021, Thursday, from 12:30 pm to 3:30pm in a virtual meeting. Contact Kumisión administrator Anna Marie Arceo at 671-482-4630 or 671-475-0139 for special accommodations, link and agenda. ***(PR)***

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Opinion

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EDITORIAL

The whole truth: 9/11 victims' families, and all of America, deserve to know much more about Saudi complicity in the attacks

Eight days before the 20th anniversary of the darkest day in New York City history, President Joe Biden honored a promise to the families of Sept. 11's victims and initiated the impending release of classified documents related to the terrorist attacks. As it should be: Almost nothing we learn about the Saudis or our own government, no matter how uncomfortable, can justify further obfuscation.

Biden's executive order—signed Friday as nearly 2,000 9/11 victim family members warned him not to bother showing up at memorial remembrances lest he make good on a campaign promise to declassify many materials—does not guarantee that all information heretofore deemed secret will suddenly be published. Nor does it ensure that if and when it does see the light of day, it won't be so full of black redaction bars as to be rendered useless.

But it does require Attorney General Merrick Garland and heads of other relevant agencies to review and publicly release documents over the next six months after considering "whether the public interest in disclosure of the information outweighs the damage to the national security that might reasonably be expected from disclosure."

That alone is significant, given that Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama and Donald Trump balked, seeming to put America's relationship with the Saudi royals before the need to answer still-agonizing questions about how the terrorists, 15 of 19 of whom came from the kingdom, were able to carry out their murderous plans.

In the spring of 2020, months after Trump said he would open FBI files—a pledge that aligned with his oft-stated skepticism of federal intelligence and law enforcement agencies—his attorney general told a federal judge that further disclosures would imperil national security, and that even elaborating on that justification "would reveal information that could cause the very harms my assertion of the state secrets privilege is intended to prevent."

Biden has it right: Keep hiding anything that might endanger American lives. Make public anything, and we mean anything, that doesn't get over that high bar.

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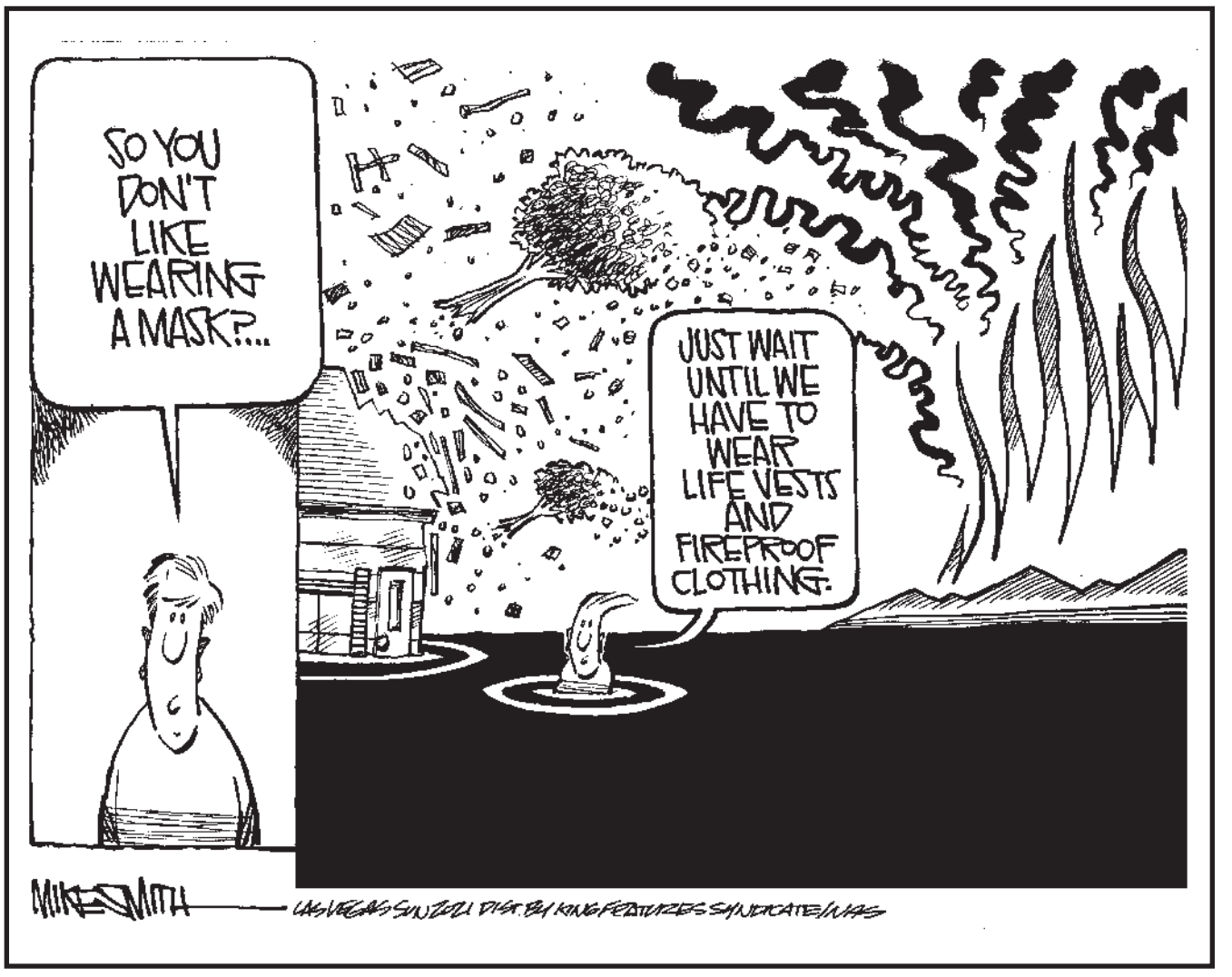
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The world needs more COVID vaccines. That gives Biden a chance to lead

By DOYLE MCMANUS
Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times*. Readers may send him email at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com.*

President Joe Biden has a huge opportunity in the next few months to regain his footing as a foreign policy president after the fall of Kabul—a chance to demonstrate that the United States can still lead and to push back against China.

It's an opportunity he can't afford to duck, because it involves a deadly challenge: the continued spread of COVID-19.

The current wave of the pandemic has been a cruel reminder of how far we are from taming this virus. But so far, the U.S.-led international effort to provide vaccines to poor countries has been a story of shortfalls and failures.

When vaccines first became available last year, rich countries bid against one another to be first in line. It wasn't pretty, but it was understandable; politicians in every country take care of their own first.

Still, almost everyone understood that the pandemic could be stopped only if its spread is checked everywhere.

"Stamping out the virus everywhere protects our health and our economy here at home," Biden's COVID-19 coordinator, Jeffrey Zients, said last week.

The United States and other vaccine-producing countries promised to make sure the rest of the world had access to immunizations as soon as possible.

They haven't delivered.

"We still see shocking inequities in access to vaccines," the head of the World Health Organization, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, said last week.

More than half of the 5.4 billion vaccinations around the world have occurred in only 10 wealthy countries plus China. The United States has put enough shots in arms for 58% of its population; France is up to 68%. But Pakistan, with 238 million people in an unstable region, has vaccinated only 14%, and Nigeria, the most populous country in Africa, only 1%.

At the current rate, most of the world's population won't be vaccinated by the end of 2022, three years after the pandemic began. The virus will continue to spread and mutate, producing new, perhaps more dangerous variants.

Biden and his aides know these things.

"From the beginning of my presidency, I've been very clear-eyed that we need to attack this virus globally, not just at home, because it's in America's self-interest," Biden said last month. "We're going to be the arsenal of vaccines to beat this pandemic, as we were the arsenal of democracy to win World War II."

But his administration's actions haven't matched those words.

The United States has delivered 130 million vaccine doses to poor countries—more than the rest of the world combined has donated, U.S. officials frequently point out—and has promised 500 million more.

But it's only about 5% of worldwide need.

"It's a drop in the ocean," Lawrence Gostin, a global health expert at Georgetown University, told me last week. "It's the greatest moral failing in global health in a long time."

Turning that around offers Biden a huge opportunity.

Later this month, Biden will push to expand the global effort when he speaks online at the United Nations General Assembly, officials have indicated.

The test, Gostin said, is whether the president is willing to do something "big and bold."

"Intentions aren't good enough," he said.

The most effective thing Biden could do, he said, would be to pressure manufacturers like Pfizer and Moderna to share their know-how with firms in other countries—a step the U.S. companies have resisted because it would weaken their control over the technology that generates their profits.

"You can donate a vaccination and save a life, but if you share the know-how, you can save a whole region," he said.

If Biden doesn't take that bold step—and there's no sign that he will—a key test will be how high he sets the global goal for vaccine production.

"An adequate number would be north of 10 billion," Gostin said.

What's in it for the United States?

First, there's the chance to protect ourselves against further spread of the virus.

See THE WORLD on next page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Guinea can't shake the resource curse or its political woes

By CLARA FERREIRA MARQUES and DAVID FICKLING
Bloomberg Opinion

For many Guineans, the scenes that played out on Sunday were a blast from the not-so-distant past: A military officer in dark glasses and fatigues on television dissolving the government and the constitution, unauthenticated videos of a disheveled-looking, apparently overthrown president, gunfire on the streets of Conakry.

The trouble for the West African nation is that the failure to make the most of its mineral resources is not just one of the causes of this latest coup—there's a risk it could also be the consequence of the deep-rooted shortcomings on display.

President Alpha Conde came to power just over a decade ago pledging to be the country's answer to Nelson Mandela. He was Guinea's first democratically elected leader, taking the helm after two years of military rule and nearly a quarter century under authoritarian leader Lansana Conte. He made promises to turn around the decrepit state and clean up mining, which did prompt some logistics and governance improvements and helped Guinea become the world's top exporter of bauxite, which is made into aluminum.

But not enough beyond that. Increasingly, Conde cracked down on opponents and dissenting voices, and last year was sworn in for a third term (after pushing through changes to the constitution to allow him to do so) despite accusations of fraud from his rival, following a worrying trend in the wider region. Little has been done to move Guinea up the value chain and to diversify the economy, which ranks 132 out of 133 on the Economic Complexity Index. Bauxite, the reddish ore that has to be refined into alumina and then smelted to produce aluminum, accounts for most of Guinea's mining exports—it vies with Australia as China's largest supplier—and yet poverty remains endemic.

There is much of the traditional resource curse here. Weak institutions, allegations of mismanagement, concentration of power, wasted potential and, now, turmoil likely to batter an economy that had otherwise proved reasonably resilient to the pandemic.

But there's a Guinean twist. The very nature of the country's mineral wealth means its version of the resource curse is not just about failures immediately visible in the disruption on the streets today. It's a double curse, because Guinea's untapped wealth is less in gold and a smattering of diamonds—which is more easily lifted from tricky spots—but in bulk commodities that are shipped by the metric ton and require roads, rail and ports. They require multi-billion dollar, long-term investments and the shareholder backing to take on the governance and operating risk.If Guinea becomes unstable in part because of past resource failures—especially if contracts and the very continuity of institutions are called into question—it will only become harder to turn it around.

Granted, there's been some success when it comes to bauxite. Production has soared more than fourfold since Conde came to power, hitting 82 million metric tons last year and accounting for nearly a quarter of global output. In the bauxite-rich Boke region north of Conakry, half a dozen jetties have been built over the past decade to handle those growing trade volumes.

Look deeper, though, and that infrastructure is an admission of defeat. Bauxite, even of the high-grade variety found in Guinea, costs only around $40 a ton. Alumina, produced by cooking the ore in caustic soda, is worth 10 times as much, and aluminum hit a 10-year high of $2,734.50 just days before the coup.

Guinea could make orders of magnitude more from its bauxite if it were able to turn it into these higher-grade products, as Australia, Brazil and Indonesia do—but such complex infrastructure on a sufficient scale is far out of the reach of Guinea's state. Its single aluminum refinery—built with the help of the Soviet Union in the first flush of postcolonial optimism in 1960—was out of operation for much of the past decade. Even its gradual restoration by current owners United Co. Rusal will only allow it to process a few percentage points of Guinea's bauxite production.

Iron ore poses an even greater conundrum. Simandou, in the country's south, is one of the world's largest untapped deposits, but has for years been caught up in expropriation rows and corruption investigations, not to mention tangled in the sheer complexity of the infrastructure required. It is divided into four blocks, two held by SMB-Winning, a consortium backed by Chinese and Singaporean companies, while blocks 3 and 4 are held by Rio Tinto and Aluminum Corp. of China, known as Chinalco. There have lately been, after a long wait, signs of progress.

China's appetite for iron ore means there is little chance the mine will remain untapped. But if anger over mismanagement and insufficiently distributed wealth results in fresh questions over contracts—indeed anything other than institutional continuity— there could be years more to wait for any of those riches.

For this long-suffering nation, a curse indeed.

Clara Ferreira Marques is a Bloomberg Opinion *columnist covering commodities and environmental, social and governance issues. Previously, she was an associate editor for Reuters Breakingviews, and editor and correspondent for Reuters in Singapore, India, the U.K., Italy and Russia. David Fickling is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering commodities, as well as industrial and consumer companies. He has been a reporter for* Bloomberg News, Dow Jones, *the* Wall Street Journal, *the* Financial Times *and the* Guardian.

The US knew the truth about Afghanistan. It didn't listen

By RUTH POLLARD
Bloomberg Opinion

Ruth Pollard is a columnist and editor with Bloomberg Opinion. *Previously she was South and Southeast Asia Government team leader at* Bloomberg News. *She has reported from India and across the Middle East and focuses on foreign policy, defense and security.*

Global leaders have spent these last critical weeks asking themselves: "What went wrong in Afghanistan?" They'd be better off asking: "What did we do wrong in Afghanistan?"

To get a sense of how badly the foreign intervention went off-course, you could do worse than to scroll through the Twitter feed of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, known as Sigar. This group, created by Congress, oversaw the nearly $145 billion the U.S. has spent on reconstruction programs in the country.

In the hours leading up to the Aug. 31 deadline for the U.S. troop withdrawal, Sigar dropped some truth bombs. Like this: "U.S. prioritized tangible projects on which money could be spent and success claimed more quickly, over less tangible types of programming with potential to be more enduring, such as capacity building. This trend would last more than a decade."

And this: "Rather than reform and improve, #Afghan institutions and powerbrokers found ways to co-opt U.S. funds for their own purposes, which only worsened problems U.S. programs meant to address." When the U.S. government "refused opportunities to reconcile with defeated Taliban and declined to implement an inclusive, post-conflict peace process, the Taliban soon rebuilt itself as a powerful insurgency."

You get the picture. The fact that this official oversight group is now tweeting publicly what it's clearly been telling U.S. officials for years reflects the deep frustration at the failure of successive administrations to heed its warnings. Call it hubris, call it American imperialism at its worst, the mission's implosion was the ultimate outcome. And the only winner? The U.S. military-industrial complex—the giant defense industry and the contractors who feed off it.

It's all there in Sigar's "Lessons From Twenty years of Afghanistan Reconstruction" report released last month—the 11th since it took on the role 13 years ago. "Implementing these critical lessons will save lives and prevent waste, fraud, and abuse in Afghanistan, and in future reconstruction missions elsewhere around the world," it notes.

As far back as 2010, Sigar was flagging concerns over the United States' response to Afghan requests for assistance in fighting corruption. The standards that Afghanistan's auditor general and his staff were expected to follow had been translated into Arabic, which isn't widely spoken in the country, but not into the local languages of Dari or Pashtu. It also noted issues with tracking weapons provided to the Afghan National Security Force. Things only worsened from there.

Sadly, it is all too late now. There was, of course, some progress. The U.S.-led mission oversaw improvements in health care, maternal health and education, but for the most part the troubled reconstruction effort has been marked by "too many failures," the report found. "Every agency experienced annual lobotomies as staff constantly rotated out, leaving successors to start from scratch and make similar mistakes all over again." And by spending money faster than could be accounted for, Washington's actions fueled corruption, delegitimized the Afghan government, and increased insecurity.

A similar situation played out in Iraq. As Emma Sky noted in her 2015 book "The Unravelling: High Hopes and Missed Opportunities in Iraq," which documented the consequences of U.S. efforts to impose its version of democracy on the Middle Eastern nation, the overthrow of an authoritarian regime can lead to state collapse and conflict. "There was more the U.S. could have done to help broker a deal among the elites and to ensure a peaceful transfer of power through elections," Sky wrote. "The failure of this policy became all to apparent when the Islamic State catapulted to prominence in June 2014." Sound familiar?

In both countries, it is the civilians who have been left to pick up the pieces after decades of violence and repression. Just last weekend images of French President Emmanuel Macron touring the former-Islamic State stronghold of Mosul—a historically and culturally significant city that has come to symbolize Iraq's ethnic and religious diversity—heralded yet another reconstruction effort aimed at bringing security and stability to the nation.

Back in Kabul, banks are short on hard currency and the lines of those desperate for money are growing by the day. In a cash-driven economy like Afghanistan, things are going to fall apart pretty quickly if people cannot buy food, fuel or medicine. That means a severe economic and humanitarian crisis is brewing, while the U.S. and institutions like the International Monetary Fund continue to block foreign currency and development aid—the bedrock of Afghanistan's public spending.

Yet the Biden White House is talking up renewed economic pressure on the Taliban to compel it to allow Americans and others to leave the country now that the full withdrawal of foreign forces is complete. At this point, any further tightening may just result in a wholesale collapse. And the continued jostling between the Taliban, Turkey and now Qatar over who will handle security at Kabul airport—along with air traffic control, fuel supplies and other critical roles—means the resumption of flights that would allow more citizens to leave may be some way off, particularly with the ongoing threat posed by the local Islamic State affiliate.

How global powers chose to navigate this crisis of their own making will indicate just how much attention they've paid to what led to the successes and failures of decades of war and occupation in Afghanistan and Iraq. If early indications are anything to go by, they haven't learned very much at all.

THE WORLD

From Page 8

Next is the opportunity to show global leadership, said Thomas Wright, co-author of "Aftershocks," a book on the foreign policy impact of COVID-19.

It would be a good way for the president to do something Xi Jinping can't do. Our vaccines are better than China's, and China has too few allies to organize a global coalition.

It would also be a good way to put something positive on the agenda for international meetings this fall, instead of recriminations over the fall of Afghanistan.

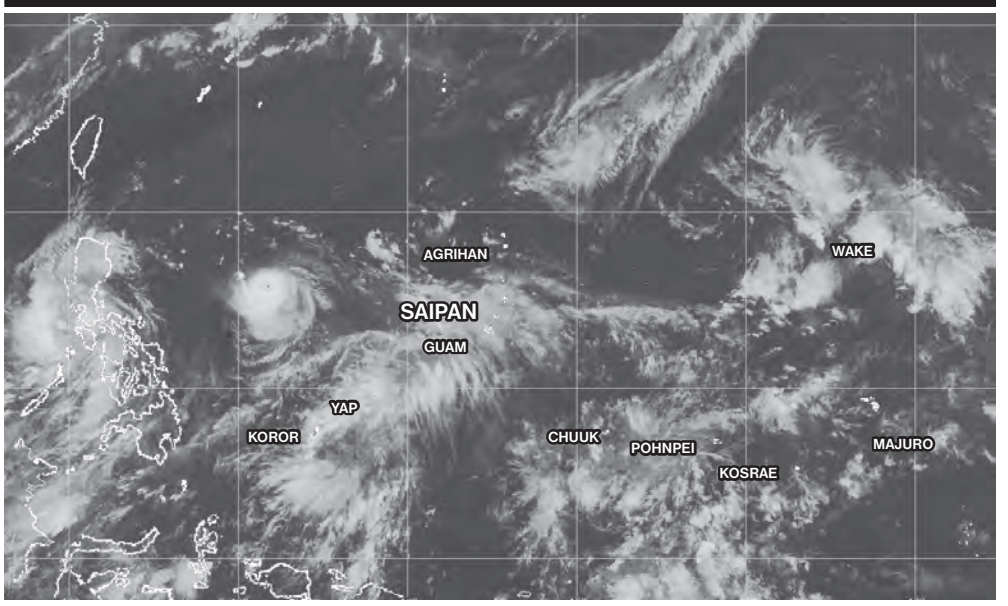
"We've had a global crisis, with no international leadership," Wright told me. "Biden needs to rally the rest of the world."

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers.
87° 78°	87° 78°	87° 78°	87° 78°	87° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:51 AM, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam Doppler weather radar shows scattered showers moving through the Marianas Waters, mainly near Guam. The Ipan buoy reveals combined seas of 5 to 7 feet which are composed of a 3 to 5 foot trade-wind swell and 2 to 4 foot wind waves.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Mostly cloudy	80 / 86 °F
Palau	Partly cloudy	77 / 88 °F
Yap	Mostly cloudy	77 / 88 °F
Chuuk	Mostly cloudy	79 / 87 °F
Pohnpei	Morning clouds	74 / 89 °F
Kosrae	Partly sunny	76 / 86 °F
Majuro	Mostly cloudy	80 / 87 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:05 AM	6:23 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:22 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:21 PM
Sunday	6:05 AM	6:21 PM
Monday	6:05 AM	6:20 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	7:51 AM	8:10 PM	-
Friday	8:48 AM	8:52 PM	-
Saturday	9:46 AM	9:38 PM	-
Sunday	10:46 AM	10:27 PM	-
Monday	11:48 AM	11:20 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Sunny	49 / 62 °F
Beijing	Mostly sunny	63 / 90 °F
Hong Kong	Partly cloudy	79 / 89 °F
Honolulu	Partly cloudy	74 / 83 °F
London	Sunny	56 / 78 °F
Los Angeles	Sunny	66 / 86 °F
Manila	Morning clouds	81 / 88 °F
Melbourne	Showers	54 / 62 °F
Miami	High level clouds	78 / 86 °F
New York	Partly sunny	71 / 87 °F
Osaka	Morning clouds	73 / 86 °F
Paris	Mostly sunny	57 / 82 °F
Pusan	Morning clouds	74 / 85 °F
Rome	Decreasing cloudiness	69 / 83 °F
Salem	Light showers	57 / 75 °F
San Francisco	Morning clouds	59 / 70 °F
Seoul	Heavy rain	64 / 68 °F
Tokyo	High level clouds	70 / 86 °F
Washington, DC	High level clouds	69 / 89 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
3:05 AM	Low Tide	0.69
8:43 AM	High Tide	2.04
3:19 PM	Low Tide	0.31
9:25 PM	High Tide	2.03

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- ❑ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- ❑ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ❑ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❑ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2021

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	6:45am	7:25am	1, 3, 6
UA117	9:45am	10:25am	2, 4, 5, 7

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

UA183	7:05pm	8:50pm	2, 5
UA183	7:25pm	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	6:45am	9:10pm	1, 3, 6 via Guam
UA117/183	9:45am	8:50pm	2, 5 via Guam
UA117/183	9:45am	9:10pm	4, 7 via Guam

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

7C3406	3:10PM	6:55PM	3
TW9308	3:20PM	8:00PM	4
OZ6243	4:00PM	7:40PM	6

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	5:00am	5:41am	1, 3, 6
UA174	8:00am	8:41am	2, 4, 5, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	9:50pm	3:55am+1	2, 5
UA184	10:25pm	4:30am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	9:50pm	5:41am+1	2, 5 via Guam
UA184/174	10:25pm	5:41am+1	7 via Guam
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:41am+1	1, 3, 4, 6 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3405	8:30AM	2:10PM	3
OZ6233	9:00AM	2:30PM	6
TW9307	10:00AM	2:20PM	4

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Business

Jobless Americans will have few options as benefits expire

By KEN SWEET
AP BUSINESS WRITER

NEW YORK (AP) — Millions of jobless Americans lost their unemployment benefits on Monday, leaving only a handful of economic support programs for those who are still being hit financially by the year-and-a-half-old coronavirus pandemic.

Two critical programs expired on Monday. One provided jobless aid to self-employed and gig workers and another provided benefits to those who have been unemployed more than six months. Further, the Biden administration's $300 weekly supplemental unemployment benefit also ran out on Monday.

It's estimated that roughly 8.9 million Americans will lose all or some of these benefits.

While the White House has encouraged states to keep paying the $300 weekly benefit by using money from the stimulus bills, no states have opted to do so. Many states even opted out of the federal program early after some businesses complained that they couldn't find enough people to hire. The data have shown minimal economic benefits from cutting off aid early in those states.

Economists Peter McCrory and Daniel Silver of JPMorgan found "zero correlation" between job growth and state decisions to drop the federal unemployment aid, at least so far. An economist at Columbia University, Kyle Coombs, found only minimal benefits.

The amount of money injected by the federal government into jobless benefits since the pandemic began is nothing short of astronomical. The roughly $650 billion, according to the nonpartisan Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, kept millions of Americans who lost their jobs through no fault of their own in their apartments, paying for food and gasoline, and keeping up with their bills. The banking industry has largely attributed the few defaults on loans this past 18 months to the government relief efforts.

"The end of the pandemic unemployment benefits will be an abrupt jolt to millions of Americans who won't find a job in time for this arbitrary end to assistance," Andrew Stettner with the Century Foundation said in a report.

The ending of these programs comes as the U.S. economy has recovered from the pandemic, but with substantial gaps in the recovery. The Labor Department says there are still 5.7 million fewer jobs than before the pandemic. Yet the department also estimated, last month, that there were roughly 10 million job openings.

These benefits are also ending sooner than during the previous crisis, the Great Recession. In that downturn, jobless benefits in various forms were extended from the start of the recession in 2008-2009 all the way until 2013. When those benefits finally ended, just 1.3 million people were still receiving aid.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Ford hires exec formerly in charge of Apple's car project

NEW YORK (AP)—Ford Motor Co. has hired a former executive from Apple and Tesla to be the company's head of advanced technology and new embedded systems, a critical post as the auto industry moves to adopt vehicles powered by electricity and guided by computers. Before Doug Field joined Ford, he was a vice president of special projects at Apple and a engineer at Tesla. Apple has been rumored to be working on its own car project for some time, but the details have been kept under tight wraps. Field also worked on Tesla's Model 3 vehicle. Field will be in charge of building out passenger systems like navigation, driver-assist technology, connected systems and cybersecurity across all of Ford's products. He will also be in charge of making sure Ford products work well with other pieces of technology, such as a smartphone or watch. "I'm thrilled to be joining Ford as it embraces a transition to a new, complex and fascinating period in the auto industry," Field said in a statement.

Meat, farm workers to get $600 grants in new $700M aid plan

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—Meatpacking workers and farm workers who were severely affected by the coronavirus pandemic will be eligible to get grants of up to $600 per person as part of a new $700 million aid program the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced Tuesday. Officials said the grants are meant to defray some of the costs workers bore as many of them bought their own protective equipment or took unpaid leave as the virus tore through their industries even as they were required to keep showing up for work. "While the rest of America could work from home, these brave men and women continued to show up for work every single day to ensure that we all food on our tables that we could eat," said Marc Perrone, president of the United Food and Commercial Workers union. "Meatpacking plants experienced some of the most deadly COVID-19 outbreaks when the pandemic first came around and there were workers that are deserving of our help, and our thanks and our support."

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE MATTER OF TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS AND CHANGE OF NAME FOR PAIGE KANAE MUNA CABRERA and PRESCOTT JONATHAN MUNA CABRERA JR., minor children.	) FCD CIVIL ACTION NO. 21-0359 FCD) ORDER SETTING HEARING AND PRESCRIBING NOTICE REGARDING PETITION FOR TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS AND CHANGE OF NAME
By: CATHERINE KAORI YASUI MUNA, Petitioner.	)

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Ms. Catherine Kaori Yasui Muna (**"Ms. Muna"**), petitioned to this Court for a decree granting her sole parental rights for Paige Kanae Muna Cabrera (D.O.B. 06/28/2012) and Prescott Jonathan Muna Cabrera Jr. (D.O.B. 11/02/2013), minor children born in the Commonwealth Healthcare Center (**"Minor Children"**), and terminating the parental rights of Mr. Prescott Jonathan Cabrera, the biological father of the Minor Children. Ms. Muna is also petitioning to change the Minor Children's legal names.

A hearing on the Petition for Termination of Parental Rights and Change of Name is hereby set for 10/06/2021 at 9:00 a.m. in the CNMI Superior Court before Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio. Any interested party may appear at that hearing.

Ms. Muna shall publish notice of the hearing once at least one week before the hearing in a newspaper of general circulation in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Ms. Muna shall also post notice on the Saipan Courthouse Public Notice Board for a period of at least ten consecutive (10) calendar days before the set hearing date.

IT IS SO ORDERED, this 24th day of August, 2021.

HONORABLE TERESA KIM-TENORIO
Associate Judge

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055•SAIPAN•MP•96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
E-MAIL ADDRESS: CPA.ADMIN@PTICOM.COM • WEBSITE: WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

NOTICE OF BOARD COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that there will be Board Committee Meetings on Friday, September 17, 2021, beginning 9:00 a.m. in the Departure Terminal at the Tinian International Airport, on Tinian.

AGENDA

AIRPORT FACILITIES COMMITTEE

- **I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes (May 27, 2021 and August 10, 2021)**
- **II. Public Comments**
- **III. Old Business:**
  1. Solar
  2. Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc. Airport Lease
  3. CUC Power Plant 2 (Rota)
- **IV. New Business:**
  1. Off-site Car rentals
  2. CPA Website
  3. Car Rental Concession (Saipan)- CRS-2021-01
     a. Determination of Scope
     b. Procurement Method
     c. Evaluation Plan
  4. Car Rental Concession (Rota)- CRR-2021-01
     a. Determination of Scope
     b. Procurement Method
     c. Evaluation Plan
  5. Updated Airport Facilities Committee Report
- **V. Executive Session (if needed)**
- **VI. Miscellaneous/Announcements**
- **VII. Adjournment**

PERSONNEL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

- **I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes (May 27, 2021 and August 10, 2021)**
- **II. Public Comments**
- **III. Old Business: None.**
- **IV. New Business:**
  1. Contract Renewal: Executive Director
  2. Contract Renewal: Tinian Ports Manager
  3. Position Description-Change of Title only (BHS)
  4. Request to Replace and Advertise-Custodial I (3 vacancies)- Saipan
  5. Request to Replace and Advertise-Equipment Operator (1 vacancy) Operations- Saipan
  6. Request to Replace and Advertise-ARFF Trainee (2 vacancies) ARFF- Saipan
  7. Request to Replace and Advertise-Maintenance/Custodial I (2 vacancies)- Rota
  8. Request to Replace and Advertise-Ports Police/ARFF I (1 vacancy)- Tinian
  9. Mental Health Leave Benefit
  10. Updated Personnel Affairs Committee Report
- **V. Executive Session (if needed)**
- **VI. Miscellaneous/Announcements**
- **VII. Adjournment**

SEAPORT FACILITIES COMMITTEE

- **I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes (May 27, 2021 and August 10, 2021)**
- **II. Public Comments**
- **III. Old Business:**
  1. Tinian Marine Stevedore, Inc.
  2. Tinian Shipping
  3. Echo Dock
- **IV. New Business:**
  1. Industrial Drive Road
  2. Updated Seaport Facilities Committee Report
- **V. Executive Session (if needed)**
- **VI. Miscellaneous/Announcements**
- **VII. Adjournment**

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

- **I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes (June 24, 2021 and August 10, 2021)**
- **II. Public Comments**
- **III. Old Business: None.**
- **IV. New Business:**
  1. Airport and Seaport Rent Relief
  2. Supplemental Budget Request: Safety Management Systems Program Implementation
  3. Supplemental Budget Request: ARFF Training Facility Professional Services Agreement Amendment No. 2
  4. Supplemental Budget Request: Tinian Airport Parking Lot Expansion Construction Management Services
  5. Air Carrier Incentive Program
  6. Accounts Receivable
  7. Updated Financial Affairs Committee Report
- **V. Executive Session (if needed)**
- **VI. Miscellaneous/Announcements**
- **VII. Adjournment**

Written testimony on the agenda items may be sent via email before the meeting to cpa.admin@pticom.com. Attendees (in person) must wear a mask and practice social distancing.

Barrie C. Toves	Ramon A. Tebuteb	Pete P. Reyes	Joseph M. Diaz
Airport Facilities Chair	Financial Affairs Chair	Seaport Facilities Chair	Personnel Affairs Chair

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055•SAIPAN•MP•96950
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E-MAIL ADDRESS: CPA.ADMIN@PTICOM.COM WEBSITE: WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) hereby gives notice that a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Friday, September 17, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. in the Departure Terminal at the Tinian International Airport, on Tinian. The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

AGENDA

- **I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
  1. Call to Order
  2. Roll Call
  3. Adoption of Agenda
  4. Adoption of Minutes (June 04, 2021 and August 10, 2021)
- **II. PUBLIC COMMENT(S)**
- **III. CORRESPONDENCES**
- **IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS**
  1. Financial Affairs Committee
  2. Airport Facilities Committee
  3. Seaport Facilities Committee
  4. Personnel Affairs Committee
- **V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**
- **VI. OLD BUSINESS:**
  1. Tinian Shipping
  2. Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc. Airport Lease
- **VII. NEW BUSINESS:**
  1. Airport and Seaport Rent Relief
  2. Supplemental Budget Request: Safety Management Systems Program Implementation
  3. Supplemental Budget Request: ARFF Training Facility Professional Services Agreement Amendment No. 2
  4. Supplemental Budget Request: Tinian Airport Parking Lot Expansion Construction Management Services
  5. Air Carrier Incentive Program
  6. Accounts Receivable
  7. Car Rental Concession (Saipan)- CRS-2021-01
     a. Determination of Scope
     b. Procurement Method
     c. Evaluation Plan
  8. Car Rental Concession (Rota)- CRR-2021-01
     a. Determination of Scope
     b. Procurement Method
     c. Evaluation Plan
  9. Contract Renewal: Executive Director
  10. Contract Renewal: Tinian Ports Manager
  11. Position Description-Change of Title only (BHS)
  12. Request to Replace and Advertise-Custodial I (3 vacancies)- Saipan
  13. Request to Replace and Advertise-Equipment Operator (1 vacancy) Operations- Saipan
  14. Request to Replace and Advertise-ARFF Trainee (2 vacancies) ARFF- Saipan
  15. Request to Replace and Advertise-Maintenance/Custodial I (2 vacancies)- Rota
  16. Request to Replace and Advertise-Ports Police/ARFF I (1 vacancy)- Tinian
  17. Mental Health Leave Benefit
- **VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**
  - **Legal Counsel Reports: Legal matters/Litigation**
- **IX. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS**
- **X. ADJOURNMENT**

Written testimony on the agenda items may be sent via email before the meeting to cpa.admin@pticom.com. Attendees (in person) must wear a mask and practice social distancing.

Kimberlyn King-Hinds
Chairwoman, Board of Directorss

September 08, 2021

PORT OF SAIPAN	BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT/SEAPORT
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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

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PUBLIC NOTICE

This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD funds.

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST A RELEASE OF FUNDS

09/09/2021

Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation
Saipan, MP 96950 Tel: (670) 234-9447/6866

This notice shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or after September 27, 2021, the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington D.C., for the release of Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019 P.L. 116-20, enacted on January 27, 2020, announced via Federal Register Notice, to undertake the following activity and purposes in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Project/Activity Type	Purpose	Location	Total Project Cost
Public School System (PSS) Francisco M. Sablan Middle School Rehabilitation Project	To repair and restore the school damaged from Typhoon Yutu	San Antonio Village, Saipan	$ 1,271,249.00

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the above-listed projects will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) and is ready for public viewing on the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) website at www.nmhcgov.net or www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com; or you may visit the on file at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan or NMHC CDBG-DR Office in Beach Road Chalan Laulau, Saipan during regular work hours, Monday through Friday except CNMI Holidays, from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation. You may submit comments from the following options: Via mail to P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Direct delivery to the central office in Garapan, Saipan or drop-box located in front of the building; and Via email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net. All comments received by **September 24, 2021, 4:30 p.m.,** will be considered by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commentors should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands certifies to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. that the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Governor Ralph DLG. Torres consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process, and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. acceptance of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and related laws and authorities, and allows the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands to use Program Funds.

OBJECTION TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Washington D.C. will accept objections to its release of funds and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands certification for a period of **fifteen days** following anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if it is on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands; (b) the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has incurred cost not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of the release of funds by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures of 24 CFR Part 58 and shall be addressed to Ms. Tennille Smith Parker, DRSI Division Director, HUD, via email at Tennille.S.Parker@hud.gov; Tel: (202)402-4649. Potential objectors should contact the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

/s/
Ralph DLG Torres
Governor, CNMI

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

Tels: (670) 234-6866
234-9447
234-7689
234-7670
Fax: (670) 234-9021

PUBLIC NOTICE

This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD funds.

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST A RELEASE OF FUNDS

09/09/2021

Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation
Saipan, MP 96950 Tel: (670) 234-9447/6866

This notice shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or after September 27, 2021, the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington D.C., for the release of Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019 P.L. 116-20, enacted on January 27, 2020, announced via Federal Register Notice, to undertake the following activity and purposes in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Project/Activity Type	Purpose	Location	Total Project Cost
Public School System (PSS) Marianas High School Rehabilitation Project	To repair and restore the school damaged from Typhoon Yutu	Susupe Village, Saipan	$ 1,240,351.29

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the above-listed projects will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) and is ready for public viewing on the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) website at www.nmhcgov.net or www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com; or you may visit the on file at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan or NMHC CDBG-DR Office in Beach Road Chalan Laulau, Saipan during regular work hours, Monday through Friday except CNMI Holidays, from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation. You may submit comments from the following options: Via mail to P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Direct delivery to the central office in Garapan, Saipan or drop-box located in front of the building; and Via email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net. All comments received by **September 24, 2021, 4:30 p.m.,** will be considered by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commentors should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands certifies to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. that the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Governor Ralph DLG. Torres consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process, and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. acceptance of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and related laws and authorities, and allows the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands to use Program Funds.

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/s/
Ralph DLG Torres
Governor, CNMI

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

Idaho hospitals begin rationing health care amid COVID surge

BOISE, Idaho (AP)—Idaho public health leaders announced Tuesday that they activated "crisis standards of care" allowing health care rationing for the state's northern hospitals because there are more coronavirus patients than the institutions can handle. The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare quietly enacted the move Monday and publicly announced it in a statement Tuesday morning—warning residents that they may not get the care they would normally expect if they need to be hospitalized. The move came as the state's confirmed coronavirus cases skyrocketed in recent weeks. Idaho has one of the lowest vaccination rates in the U.S. The state health agency cited "a severe shortage of staffing and available beds in the northern area of the state caused by a massive increase in patients with COVID-19 who require hospitalization." The designation includes 10 hospitals and healthcare systems in the Idaho panhandle and in north-central Idaho. The agency said its goal is to extend care to as many patients as possible and to save as many lives as possible.

After Ida deaths, Louisiana revokes nursing home licenses

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP)—Louisiana health officials said Tuesday they are revoking the licenses of nursing homes that were evacuated to a warehouse where seven residents died amid deteriorating conditions deemed too squalid to be safe after Hurricane Ida. The seven homes—all owned by one person—"clearly failed to execute their emergency preparedness plans to provide essential care and services to their residents," Department of Health Secretary Courtney Phillips said in a statement. Authorities found some nursing home residents lying on mattresses on the floor, without food or clean clothes, and detected strong odors of urine and feces throughout the warehouse, located in the town of Independence. Piles of trash were on the floor. Water entered the building, and generators at least temporarily failed, according to officials. Health department lawyer Stephen Russo called the conditions "inhumane."

Hurricane Ida power outages, misery persist 9 days later

LaPLACE, La. (AP)—Hundreds of thousands of homes and businesses in Louisiana, most of them outside New Orleans, still didn't have power Tuesday and more than half the gas stations in two major cities were without fuel nine days after Hurricane Ida slammed into the state, splintering homes and toppling electric lines. There were also continuing signs of recovery, however, as the total number of people without electricity has fallen from more than a million at its peak, while hundreds of thousands of people have had their water restored. State health officials, meanwhile, announced that they are revoking the licenses of seven nursing homes that evacuated to a warehouse where seven residents died amid deteriorating conditions after the hurricane. The disparity in power restoration between New Orleans, where nearly 3/4 of the city had electricity again, and other communities where almost all residents were still in the dark prompted frustration and finger-pointing.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 21 – 057 Revised

Opening Date: September 3, 2021
Closing Date: September 17, 2021

POSITION TITLE:	**Administrative Assistant**
DEPARTMENT:	**Administration**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$16,742.00 to $22,602.00 per annum, Non-Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Not Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**One (1)**

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Executive Director or his/her designee.

Duties:

- Gather, assembles, updates, processes and/or distributes forms, documents, requests, invoices, mail and or records; reviews information for completeness, accuracy and content; resolves discrepancies; prepares information for processing and disseminates and/or maintains documentation.
- Routes confidential documents for signatures of officials at various agencies.
- Packages and routes mail for pick up and drop off.
- Must be able to lift up to 50 pounds.
- Provides reception duties and responds to request for information; provides customer support with completing forms and answering routine questions; refers to inquiries as required to the appropriate resource; and advises management of issues for resolution.
- Enters data in systems or on documents; organizes and maintains files, records, logs, and/or timesheets, ensure file integrity and retention of records and documentation according to established procedures.
- Retrieves and/or prepares reports, correspondence, documents, deposits, account adjustments and other related documentation.
- Monitors supplies; materials and/or equipment inventory; prepares requisitions replenishment of supplies ore required services; monitors order status, coordinates deliveries and services with vendors; and may provide pick-up or delivery of documents or items as needed.
- Monitors scheduling needs for meetings, equipment maintenance, and/or other relevant service requirements; schedules and coordinates appointments, resources and/or services.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS.
Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances (based on assignment); Customer service principles; Basic filing and record keeping principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Basic inventory and supplies maintenance practices; Specialized equipment relevant to area of assignment; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology.
Skills in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards (based on assignment); Providing customer service; Filing, organizing, imaging and maintaining records and files; Preparing basic reports, correspondence and documentation; Managing time and prioritizing requests; Providing attention to detail; Proofreading documents for accuracy; Identifying errors and making corrections; Maintaining confidentiality of records and information; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 21 – 066

Opening Date: September 2, 2021
Closing Date: September 16, 2021

POSITION TITLE:	**Trades Technician, Machinist**
DEPARTMENT:	**Power Generation**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$20,826.00 to $28,115.00 per annum, Non-Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Not Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**Two (2)**

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Power Generation Manager or his/her designee. This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of the department.

Duties:

- Operates and maintains lathe, milling machines and machine tools.
- Reviews blueprints, sketches, drawings, manuals, specification, or sample part to determine dimensions and tolerances of finished workpiece, sequence of operations and set requirements.
- Measures, marks, and scribes dimensions and reference points on material or work-piece as guides for subsequent machining as necessary.
- Selects, aligns, and secures holding fixtures, cutting tools, attachments, accessories, and materials on machines as necessary to machine parts as required.
- Calculates and sets controls to regulate machining factors such as speed, feed, coolant flow and depth and angle of cut according to established guidelines and procedures.
- Starts and observes machine operation to detect malfunctions or out-of-tolerance machining, and adjusts machine controls or control media as required.
- Verifies conformance of finished work-piece to specifications, using measuring and inspection tools as necessary.
- Sets up and operates machine on trial run to verify accuracy of machine settings.
- Takes precise measurements for cutting or shaping.
- Selects appropriate machine and settings for a given task.
- Plans proper sequence of tasks to complete the assignment.
- Monitors adjusting feed and other settings as necessary.
- Identifies need for and performs machine maintenance and minor repairs.
- Maintains a safe and clean workstation.
- Contributes to team effort by accomplishing related tasks as needed.
- Confers with senior engineer or others to resolve machining problems.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education. Must demonstrate having had (A) 4 years of increasingly responsible experience in a diesel engine power plant and (B) those 4 years of increasingly responsible experience are to be performing machinist duties. Apprenticeship or vocational training preferred.
Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Principles, practices and procedures of assigned service area; Customer service principles; Mathematical concepts; Inventory maintenance practices; Inspection procedures; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology.
Skills in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Performing skilled maintenance, operations and repair work in assigned area; Reviewing quality levels and providing technical guidance in assigned area; Operating specialized and heavy equipment; Strong attention to details and accuracy; Adhering to safety procedures and safe work practices; Monitoring equipment and making adjustments; Performing inspections and identifying issues; Troubleshooting issues and recommending or implementing solutions; Receiving requests and trouble calls and providing assistance; Monitoring inventory and supplies; Initiating supply requests; Taking equipment readings and maintaining reading data; Preparing and updating activity logs and status reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Able to lift up to 50 pounds and perform repetitive tasks.

- **Licensing:**
  - o Valid CNMI Driver's License with appropriate class.
- **Physical Demands:**
  - o Occasional lifting of objects; Subject to standing, walking sitting, bending, reaching, kneeling, pushing and pulling.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 21 – 067

Opening Date: September 3, 2021
Closing Date: Until Filled

POSITION TITLE:	**Engineer, P.E.**
DEPARTMENT:	**Water & Wastewater Division**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$100,000.00 per annum, Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**Four (4)**

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Chief Engineer, P.E. or his/her designee. This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of the department.

Duties:

- Coordinates and meets with other divisional sections and corporate divisions to coordinate activities and projects.
- Supervises engineering support staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work, conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff is trained; and making, hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations.
- Performs project management activities to include preparing reports, memorandums and recommendations.
- Developing scope of work, providing technical reviews;
- Surveying for projects, evaluating proposals, monitoring project process, approving payment, and recommending award of projects.
- Prepares engineering designs, plans and specifications, collects data and performs research.
- Troubleshoots systems and equipment.
- Reviews work performed by engineers.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required by CUC and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA

Minimum Requirements:
Education: Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil, Mechanical, or Electrical Engineering. Registration as a Professional Engineer pursuant to the National Council of Engineering Examiners standards in either the civil, mechanical or electrical branch. Experience of five (5) or more years as a professional engineer.
Knowledge of: Engineering principles and practices; mathematical concepts, construction principles; project management principles; safe work practices; applicable Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations.
Skills in: Interpreting and applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; reading and interpreting scaled drawings for construction contracts; preparing a variety of technical reports and/or documentation; presenting technical information to management, public groups, and other related individuals; interpreting and preparing specifications, plans, and cost estimates; conducting studies. Able to use computers and related software applications; communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with co-workers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

- **Licensing:**
  - o Professional Engineer License
  - o Valid Driver's License with appropriate class.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

Tels: (670) 234-6866
234-9447
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234-7670
Fax: (670) 234-9021

PUBLIC NOTICE

This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD funds.

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST A RELEASE OF FUNDS

09/09/2021

Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation
Saipan, MP 96950 Tel: (670) 234-9447/6866

This notice shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or after September 27, 2021, the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington D.C., for the release of Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019 P.L. 116-20, enacted on January 27, 2020, announced via Federal Register Notice, to undertake the following activity and purposes in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Project/Activity Type	Purpose	Location	Total Project Cost
Public School System (PSS) William S. Reyes Elementary School Rehabilitation Project	To repair and restore the school damaged from Typhoon Yutu	Chalan Kanoa Village, Saipan	$ 2,296,875.00

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the above-listed projects will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) and is ready for public viewing on the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) website at www.nmhcgov.net or www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com; or you may visit the on file at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan or NMHC CDBG-DR Office in Beach Road Chalan Laulau, Saipan during regular work hours, Monday through Friday except CNMI Holidays, from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation. You may submit comments from the following options: Via mail to P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Direct delivery to the central office in Garapan, Saipan or drop-box located in front of the building; and Via email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net. All comments received by **September 24, 2021, 4:30 p.m.,** will be considered by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commentors should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

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Project/Activity Type	Purpose	Location	Total Project Cost
Public School System (PSS) Tinian Elementary School Rehabilitation Project	To repair and restore the school damaged from Typhoon Yutu	San Jose Village, Tinian	$ 677,503.00

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the above-listed projects will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) and is ready for public viewing on the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) website at www.nmhcgov.net or www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com; or you may visit the on file at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan or NMHC CDBG-DR Office in Beach Road Chalan Laulau, Saipan during regular work hours, Monday through Friday except CNMI Holidays, from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

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/s/
Ralph DLG Torres
Governor, CNMI

Environment

Project manager Scott Moncrief presents the "No further action" recommendation of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on the Talafofo Hospital dump site, now Kingfisher Golf Course, at the public information meeting last week at the Legislature's parking lot on Capital Hill. IVA MAURIN

Community member Fred Camacho talks about drums located not far from the former Talafofo hospital dump site, suggesting that the site may have also been used as another dump. Camacho's comment led to other community members talking about the many other possible locations on island that could be hazardous, including the very parking lot where the meeting was being held, and the now Department of Finance Building on Capital Hill. IVA MAURIN

Former Tanapag Action Group president Juan Tenorio calls on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to do the right thing, adding that the chemicals found at the former hospital dump are all health hazards and are harmful to agriculture. The USACE report stated that the metals in the soil do not pose an "unacceptable risk" to human health. IVA MAURIN

USACE urged to 'do the right thing' on former hospital dump

By IVA MAURIN
CORRESPONDENT

A map of the former Talafofo hospital dump site is on display at the public information meeting organized by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers last week at the Legislature's parking lot on Capital Hill. IVA MAURIN

Do you know of any site in the CNMI that might have been complicated by the presence—even potential or perceived—of a hazardous substance? Do you know of any possible formerly-used defense sites that could be investigated, and cleaned up?

These popped up at the public information meeting held last week on Capital Hill, organized by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, regarding the findings and proposed actions on the dump site of what used to be back in June 1945, a 2,000-bed surgical hospital in Talafofo.

The proposed plan of the USACE is to take no further action. The public has until the end of this month, on Sept. 30, Thursday, to comment on this plan—if they are for or against it.

During the meeting last week, the USACE, through project manager Scott Moncrief, presented the results of several investigations that were performed at the site, where, accordingly, several metals in the soil where found, including arsenic, barium, cadmium, chromium, lead, mercury, selenium, and silver.

The 2011 report stated that heavy metals arsenic, chromium, lead, mercury, and silver exceeded the Pacific Basin environmental screening levels, and were referred to as "contaminants of potential concern."

According to the World Health Organization, small amounts of water-soluble barium and lead cause kidney damage and increased risk of high blood pressure, among others. Cadmium is classified as a carcinogen, along with chromium. Mercury is associated with neurological and behavioral disorders. Long-term exposure to arsenic from drinking water and food can cause cancer and skin lesions. It is also linked to diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

The USACE completed its Remedial Investigation report in October 2020 as a follow-up, which stated that, except for arsenic, the metals found in the site soil did not exceed the Tropical Pacific Environmental Screening Levels. On arsenic, they said that "the 95% upper confidence limit was less than the site-specific background value."

It was then concluded that the metals in the soil do not pose an "unacceptable risk" to human health, and that "potential risk to ecological receptors from exposure to the metals reduced to an acceptable level." The USACE's recommendation? "No Action for chemical contamination in site soil."

The "No Action" recommendation basically means that there will be no additional investigation or remediation on the site.

'Please do the right thing'

Compared to the public information meeting last June at the Hyatt Regency Saipan, more community members participated in the meeting last Sept. 1 at the Legislature's parking lot on Capital Hill.

Many, if not all, expressed concern and rallied behind the need for further investigations on the site, as well as on many other possible former defense dump sites on island.

Former Tanapag Action Group president Juan Tenorio called on USACE to "do the right thing," and urged it to dig deeper beyond 12 inches, stressing that the chemicals harm agriculture, and are all health hazards affecting pregnant women and the unborn child.

"What you're telling us now—that is exactly what the federal government told me back in 1982. I got some samples already sent to Australia and Japan. When they came back, we found that they were lying, and they ended up spending $46 million cleaning Tanapag," Tenorio said. "They brought in CDC [U.S. Centers for Disease Control] to do an entire physical health checkup in Tanapag, and we're not done. So here you are, telling us that after 77 years, nothing's [going to] happen? I disagree with you, sir."

Tenorio was referring to the fuel farm on the Tanapag Settlement, and the ceramic capacitors the U.S. Forces brought to the island that contained oil saturated with PCB [polychlorinated biphenyls], a toxic chemical that causes cancer, the production of which was banned in the United States in the '70s.

"Please, please do the right thing," Tenorio said. "All of these chemicals are health hazards, so don't have the audacity to come and tell us that these will not cause any or pose any health problem. Please, we are not as dumb as people think we are."

Moncrief assured that the USACE took no shortcuts in investigating the Talafofo dump site, and that they did not see anything that would have led to PCB contamination. "We followed the scientific, best methodology for implementing the study, and we did adhere to very, very high quality controls when we planned the study, and when we sent the samples to the laboratory. We didn't cut corners. These results are representative of the conditions at the site."

Moncrief also clarified that their presentation is focused on the former Talafofo hospital dump site, and not the other sites on the island.

Reporting formerly-used defense sites

Not far from the former hospital dump is another site where drum cans appear to just have been pushed in, according to Fred Camacho, another community member present at the USACE-organized meeting.

Camacho also said the drums happen to be on their property, and expressed concern that, given that the hospital is "right next door," the site might have been used as another dump.

He also added that that it is his understanding that there has been a lot of bulldozing that happened in the golf course, that the Talafofo dump site is not the only site that was used as a dumpster, and that a lot of "stuff" were just pushed over the cliff.

"We're concentrating on this site. Yes, you have sample sites within the golf course area but…there are a few military dumpsites on island that haven't been looked at. I don't know how you're going to go about finding out where all the debris are," he added.

In response, Moncrief informed the community that information laid out by Camacho could be responded to by the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality.

BECQ's Division of Environmental Quality has a Storage Tanks, Site Assessment and Remediation branch that ensures the assessment and cleanup of sites contaminated by hazardous substances, through the Brownfields Program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the FUDS program of the USACE.

"If there is some way to identify that there's an addition to the FUDS program, there's also an EPA Brownfields Program that can address things that are not captured in the FUDS Program. EPA provides money for investigations and cleanup of those sites," Moncrief said.

Moncrief also added that in addition to military dumps, there were also municipal dumps around the island that had a mixture of military and municipal waste, which are potential Brownfield sites and possibly FUD sites.

"The CNMI Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality would be a good place to start with that. They have boots on the ground here. They could go out if somebody sees debris that might be wartime area debris, and they can help identify that and bring that to the attention of EPA or Army Corps, or both," he said.

USEPA defines Brownfield land as a property where its expansion, redevelopment, or reuse may be complicated by the presence (or potential presence) of hazardous materials. These can be abandoned gas stations, dry cleaning establishments, factories, mills, or foundries; or at a smaller scale, can be dry cleaners, vacant lots, or gas stations.

Acting DEQ director Robert B. Deleon Guerrero said at the meeting that the program is not just limited to Saipan, but extends to Tinian and Rota, and that there is a process involved—which includes coordinating with the land owners—once the site is deemed eligible for the Brownfield or FUDS programs.

"Currently under the Storage Tanks program, we are working on closing a legacy underground storage tank [site] which was in Puerto Rico. It was formerly known as the former WWII service station," he said.

Deleon Guerrero said they are also looking for sites that were used as service stations, and for anyone who may have information to reach out to BECQ so the sites can be discussed and investigated.

For any information regarding Brownfields and FUDS sites, contact BECQ's Storage Tanks, Site Assessment & Remediation (ST/AR) Branch at 664-8534 or 664-8506.

Life & Style

A fall movie season (like everything else) in flux

This combination of images shows promotional art for upcoming films, top row from left, "No Time to Die," "The Last Duel," "The Many Saints of Newark," "House of Gucci," "Dune" and "The French Dispatch," bottom row from left, "The Eyes of Tammy Faye," "Ghostbusters: Afterlife," "The Guilty," "Dear Evan Hansen," "Venom: Let There Be Carnage," and "King Richard."

TOP ROW FROM LEFT, MGM/20TH CENTURY STUDIOS/WARNER BROS-HBO MAX/MGM/WARNER BROS. PICTURES/SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES, BOTTOM ROW FROM LEFT, SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES/SONY PICTURES/NETFLIX/ UNIVERSAL/SONY PICTURES/WARNER BROS PICTURES VIA AP

NEW YORK (AP)—Filmmaker Cary Fukunaga has been waiting more than a year and a half for the biggest movie of his career, the James Bond film "No Time to Die," to arrive in theaters. It has been a strange and surreal wait. Months before the much-delayed movie is even released on Oct. 8, the film's theme song, by Billie Eilish, already won a Grammy.

"I had a dream last night where Sam Mendes was there," Fukunaga said in a recent interview, referring to the director of the previous two Bond movies. "We were on vacation on some frozen lake. He was done with Bond films. And he was like, 'Oh, you finished one. Now you get a break.' Then we started, like, water skiing on a frozen lake."

"It was a weird dream," says Fukunaga.

The fall movie season—usually a reliable rhythm and cozy autumn comfort—is, like much of the past 18 months, a little disorienting. On the way are movies once planned to open as far back as April 2020, like "No Time to Die," summer movies that hope to find better conditions in autumn, and films that have been shot and edited during the pandemic.

What has coalesced is a movie mishmash—something much more robust than last fall's cobbled together, mostly virtual fall movie season—a season that stretched all the way to the Oscars in April. But the recent rise in COVID-19 cases due to the delta variant has added new uncertainty to a time Hollywood had once hoped would be nearing normality.

"Everything is fluid, and everything will stay fluid," says Tom Rothman, chairman and chief executive of Sony Pictures. "It's the antithesis of the way it used to be. In the old days, you planted your flag and you didn't move for hell or high water. Now, there's a great premium on being very flexible and nimble."

The unpredictability of the conditions is universally shared but acutely felt at studios like Sony that even through the pandemic have remained largely committed to exclusively theatrical releases. While Disney (with Disney+) and Warner Bros. (with HBO Max) have sought to hedge their bets and boost subscribers to their streaming services with day-and-date releases in 2021, Sony, Universal, Paramount and MGM (home to Bond)—with various windowing strategies—have mostly stuck to theater-first plans.

In all the movies coming this fall—among them "The Last Duel" (Oct. 15), "Dune" (Oct. 22), "Eternals" (Nov. 5), "House of Gucci" (Nov. 24)—nothing may be quite as tense as the ever-unfolding drama around old-fashioned, butts-in-the-seats moviegoing. Citing the delta-driven surge, Paramount has uprooted from the season, booting "Top Gun: Maverick" to next year. But on the heels of some promising box-office performances, many of the fall's top movies and leading Oscar hopefuls are only doubling down on theatrical, and the cultural impact that comes with it. Even if it's a gamble.

After building confidence in moviegoing over the summer, delta has sapped some of Hollywood's momentum. The National Research Group had recorded more than 80% of moviegoers were comfortable going to theaters in July. But that number dipped to 67% last month.

Yet summer's last big movie, Marvel's "Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings," gave the fall a major lift with $90 million in estimated ticket sales over the four-day Labor Day weekend—one of the best performances of the pandemic. Notably, it was only playing in theaters. Even before all the numbers were in, Rothman and Sony moved up the release of "Venom: Let There Be Carnage," the sequel to its $856 million superhero hit, by two weeks to Oct. 1. It kicks off Sony's slate including Jason Reitman's "Ghostbuster: Afterlife" (Nov. 19), Denzel Washington's "A Journal for Jordan" (Dec. 10) and "Spider-Man: No Way Home" (Dec. 17).

Expect little of the debates about the future of movie theaters to get settled anytime soon.

"Until the pandemic is genuinely behind us, I don't think that you can prognosticate about what the future of cinema is going to be," says Rothman. "It's still on emergency footing right now."

So Hollywood's summer in limbo will stretch into the fall. But more than any previous point in the pandemic, a whole lot of movies are lined up. The Venice and Telluride film festivals have kindled buzz for a wide array of upcoming films, including Jane Campion's lauded Netflix drama "The Power of the Dog" (Nov. 17), with Benedict Cumberbatch. The Oscar race could have some major star power, too. Among the early standouts: Kristen Stewart as Princess Diana in "Spencer" (Nov. 5) and Will Smith as Richard Williams, father of Venus and Serena, in "King Richard" (Nov. 19).

Hopefully, the long delay of a number of films that have been waiting in the wings for more than a year—including Steven Spielberg's "West Side Story" (Dec. 10), Wes Anderson's "The French Dispatch" (Oct. 22) and, yes, "No Time to Die"—will finally be over.

"What I haven't gotten on this one is the satisfaction of anyone else seeing the film and saying 'I hated it' or 'I like it,' says Fukunaga. "That's the part you're waiting for. Some people are going to like it. Some people aren't going to like it. But you still want to hear it. Even if you don't want to hear it, you want to hear it."

Parents hesitate to allow addict son to move back in

DEAR ABBY: My 24-year-old son is in rehab for the second time. We paid for the first, but we are not financing this one. He has moved in and out of our home since he was 18. We have tried written agreements, but he doesn't follow them. We let him move back in after his first stay in rehab, despite the fact that he had stolen from us and had failed to get a job, etc. He not only didn't get a job, he also didn't help around the house or do any of the other things he had promised. One month later, he began using again.

He claims to be taking rehab seriously this time, and wants to move back in with us when he gets out. He says he now realizes he can't stay clean without following the 12 steps, including acknowledging a higher power, and without the support of his family. Over the past year, we spent several thousand dollars helping him solve his problems. Our question is, will we be enabling him by letting him return home, or would it be best to help him transition to a halfway house?

SUPPORTIVE PARENTS

DEAR SUPPORTIVE PARENTS: You are caring parents, and I know this has been painful for you. Do NOT allow your son to move back in without first discussing it with the people at his rehabilitation center whose business it is to work with addicts. From my perspective, it would be better for your son—and for you—to have him pursue his sobriety at a halfway house.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My son is getting married in a few months. I always believed that if my child loved his partner, I would like him or her and be happy for them. Race, religion, sexual orientation, etc., would never have mattered to me.

I found out this week that my future daughter-in-law totally rejects modern medicine. My son is a cystic fibrosis carrier. She refuses to be tested because "no one in her family has ever had CF." Our family can say the same thing, but both of my sons and I are CF carriers.

She plans home-births with her mother as her midwife and believes vaccinations are harmful. My son supports none of this, but plans to marry her anyway. They want to get pregnant right away and eventually have five children. She's only 21, and intelligent, but she has been home-schooled, and her father does not allow internet in their home. I feel her position on medicine is due to not being informed. Her religion does not forbid it. I am heartbroken. Is there anything I can do?

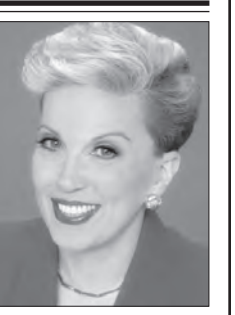
HEARTBROKEN IN MICHIGAN

DEAR HEARTBROKEN: Not a lot, I'm sorry to say. You could point out to your son that he should insist he and his fiancee have genetic testing done before starting a family, which could avert a tragic and preventable problem. You could print out material from respected sources—the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation would be among them—but you cannot force the fiancee to accept it. Other than that, all you can do is cross your fingers and pray the young couple will catch a lucky break in a game of genetic roulette.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



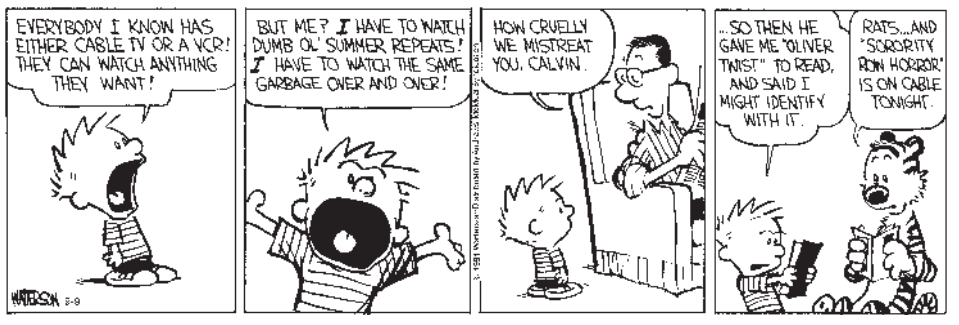
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

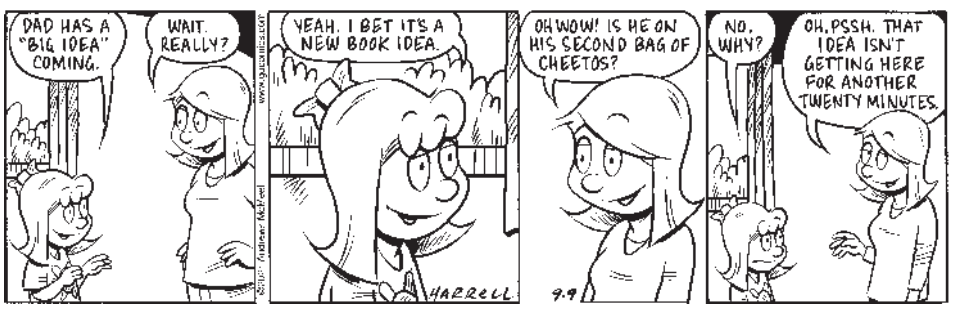

EVERYBODY I KNOW HAS EITHER CABLE TV OR A VCR! THEY CAN WATCH ANYTHING THEY WANT!
BUT ME? I HAVE TO WATCH DUMB OL' SUMMER REPEATS! I HAVE TO WATCH THE SAME GARBAGE OVER AND OVER!
HOW CRUELLY WE MISTREAT YOU, CALVIN.
...SO THEN HE GAVE ME "OLIVER TWIST" TO READ, AND SAID I MIGHT IDENTIFY WITH IT.
RATS...AND "SORORITY ROW HORROR" IS ON CABLE TONIGHT.
WATERSON 9-9

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

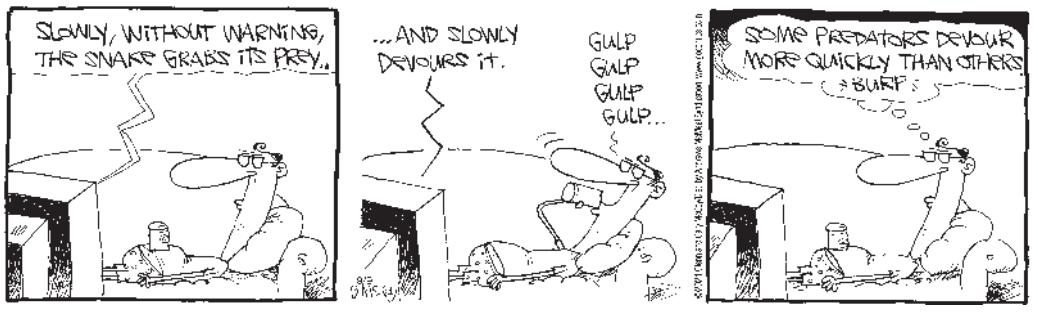
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


DAD HAS A "BIG IDEA" COMING.
WAIT. REALLY?
YEAH. I BET IT'S A NEW BOOK IDEA.
OH WOW! IS HE ON HIS SECOND BAG OF CHEETOS?
NO. WHY?
OH. PSSH. THAT IDEA ISN'T GETTING HERE FOR ANOTHER TWENTY MINUTES.
HARRELL
9-9

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


SLOWLY, WITHOUT WARNING, THE SNAKE GRABS ITS PREY..
...AND SLOWLY DEVOURS IT.
GULP GULP GULP GULP...
SOME PREDATORS DEVOUR MORE QUICKLY THAN OTHERS
BURP

CROSSWORD

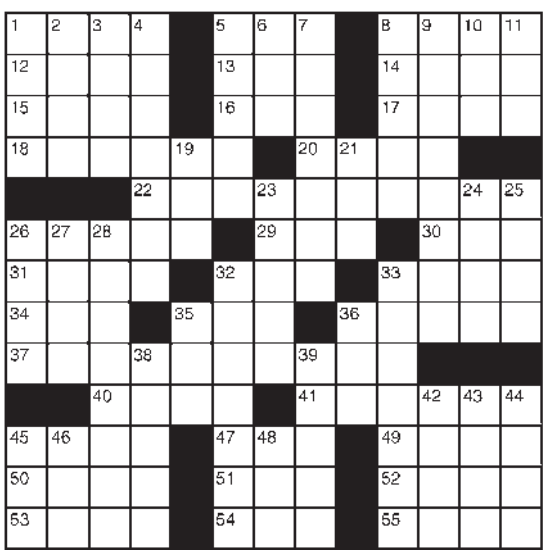
By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Dross
5 Sashimi fish
8 Denny's rival
12 Select from a group
13 Part of UCLA
14 Quick swims
15 Tiny battery
16 Retrieve
17 Utah ski resort
18 Arctic plain
20 "Funny!"
22 Escapist's paradise
26 Wishes (for)
29 Expected
30 Suffix with cash
31 "So be it"
32 Hwys.
33 "— girl!"
34 Sea, to Henri
35 Architect I.M. —
36 Secret rendezvous
37 Body-builder's title
40 Bad habit
41 Giraffe cousins
45 Grand tale
47 Comic Romano
49 Grate
50 Humdrum
51 Env. insert
52 — Major
53 Dog's treasure
54 Use a henna rinse
55 Paraphernalia

DOWN
1 Ella's style
2 Hawaiian feast
3 Actor Rickman
4 Elate
5 Aquarium buildup
6 Weed whacker
7 Narrow strip of land
8 The Gem State
9 Intense mirth
10 Choose
11 Unpaid TV spot
19 B&O and others (Abbr.)
21 Shock partner
23 Pitcher Joss
24 Reply to "Shall we?"
25 "Phooey!"
26 Soccer star Mia
27 Biblical grain measure
28 Lima native
32 Adored
33 Floor covering
35 Photo, for short
36 Chiding sound
38 Recess
39 Partner of Rolls
42 Whittle (down)
43 "Insecure" actress Rae
44 Mast
45 Recede
46 Mideast org.
48 Whatever

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 9-9



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Michelle Williams, 41; Eric Stonestreet, 50; Adam Sandler, 55; Hugh Grant, 61.

Happy Birthday: Explore possibilities, and make adjustments that encourage you to use your attributes in new and exciting ways. Update your plans, and make alterations to the way you live and how you take care of yourself, your finances and your relationships with others. Take the time to recognize what's meaningful to you, and restructure your life to fulfill your dreams. Your numbers are 9, 17, 26, 28, 33, 37, 41.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Take part in something you feel passionate about, and you will be exhilarated by the people you meet and the progress you make. An opportunity to head in a creative direction will boost your need to explore new territory. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* When in doubt, take a pass. Get involved in something that is geared toward peace of mind, fitness and productivity. Restlessness will set in if you don't keep moving. Make decisions based on what you want, and you will excel. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Get out and away from situations that are causing you grief. Spend time with someone who shares your beliefs, enjoys the same pastimes and makes you feel good about yourself. Networking functions will prove to be beneficial. Romance is featured. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Go over details and size up situations. Having a clear picture will help you decipher the best way to deal with problems that involve others. In the end, you are better off choosing what fits your lifestyle. Please yourself. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Gravitate toward people, places and opportunities that you find exhilarating. If you get caught in someone's drama, you'll miss a chance to explore new possibilities. Personal gain, educational pursuits and finding your bliss are in your best interest. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Let new energy into your life and pursue the people, places and things that bring you joy. Live in the moment, and share your feelings with someone you love. Don't fear change; move forward with confidence, and see what unfolds. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Set things up to suit your needs. Be responsible for what transpires. Aim to stabilize your life and your home environment, and dedicate more time to enjoying the company of those you love. Choose what makes you happy. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Refuse to let anyone upset you or stop you from getting things done. Declutter your life, your home and your mind of stuff that belongs in the past. Learn from the lessons you've encountered, and strive for better days ahead. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* You'll pick up valuable information if you participate in discussions that interest you or spark your imagination. A chance to help someone or something you believe in will lead to a revelation that will change the way you move forward. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Leave nothing to chance. Double-check whatever information comes your way before you pass it along. Expect someone to use emotional tactics to swing your opinion. Take physical action, and do the work yourself to avoid mistakes and disappointment. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Experience will pay off. Embrace what's available, and make the most with what you've got. Your ingenuity and dedication will shine through and give you the platform you require to get your point across. Celebrate a victory with someone you love. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Observe the way others think and do things. Don't feel the need to interfere when it's best to make sure you have your life in order before you judge what someone is doing. Nurture relationships instead of trying to change them. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, compassionate and steady. You are optimistic and novel.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	8			7			5	
3			1	4	6			2
	6			3			7	
8	2						1	4
	9			5			3	
4			9	8	5			6
	3			6			8	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/09

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

2	9	1	8	5	6	4	7	3
4	8	7	2	1	3	9	6	5
5	3	6	7	4	9	2	1	8
9	7	8	1	3	4	6	5	2
6	5	3	9	2	8	1	4	7
1	2	4	5	6	7	8	3	9
8	1	9	4	7	5	3	2	6
3	4	5	6	8	2	7	9	1
7	6	2	3	9	1	5	8	4

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

JACKIE MASON (1931-2021) **Solution: 10 letters**

B	E	S	T	N	A	T	T	A	H	N	A	M	F	C
E	D	L	S	S	H	E	B	O	Y	G	A	N	A	O
S	N	E	G	T	U	W	O	H	S	Z	T	T	I	M
R	I	E	O	E	J	E	N	N	A	H	S	A	R	E
E	G	P	L	L	M	Y	V	N	E	K	M	R	L	D
C	H	E	B	L	L	L	L	A	I	E	O	C	Y	I
U	T	R	I	O	A	T	T	L	A	P	S	H	N	A
D	C	F	D	R	R	E	L	O	S	O	H	I	E	N
O	L	N	O	D	R	S	V	E	N	H	E	V	E	N
R	U	R	E	P	O	O	C	E	B	I	E	E	U	I
P	B	Y	R	O	T	S	I	H	T	B	G	B	Q	Y
V	S	O	A	P	U	D	N	A	T	S	A	H	A	Y
I	O	P	U	O	S	N	E	K	C	I	H	C	T	N
F	L	S	T	N	E	R	A	P	D	D	O	N	K	O
O	N	E	M	A	N	O	I	S	I	V	E	L	E	T

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Archive, Back, Belt, Best, Blogs, Borscht, Catskills, Chicken Soup, Comedian, Cooper, Doer, Droll, Eli, Envy, Fairly, Film, Hakohen, History, Hope, Jenna, Jyll, Manhattan, Maza, Moshe, Nightclubs, OddParents, One-man, Pal, Producer, Proof, Pun, Queen, Sheba, Sheboygan, Show, Sleeper, Stand-up, Steve Allen, Television, Tell, Theater, Tonight, Tony, Yacov

Yesterday's Answer: Credit Cards

The NEW **Treasury 41** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

Nelson Cruz oldest to hit 30 HRs, Rays beat Red Sox, 12-7

BOSTON (AP)—Nelson Cruz homered twice and, at 41 years old, became the oldest player in major league history to hit 30 home runs in a season, powering the Tampa Bay Rays past the Boston Red Sox 12-7 Wednesday night.

Mike Zunino also homered twice and Jordan Luplow connected for the team with the best record in the American League and the highest-scoring club in the majors.

Rays rookie Wander Franco went 0 for 4 with a walk, extending his on-base streak to 37 games and passing Mickey Mantle (1951-52) for the longest by an AL player under 21 years old. The 20-year-old Franco now trails only Frank Robinson, who reached in 43 straight in 1956.

The Rays won their seventh straight road game and increased their AL East lead to 9 1/2 games over New York.

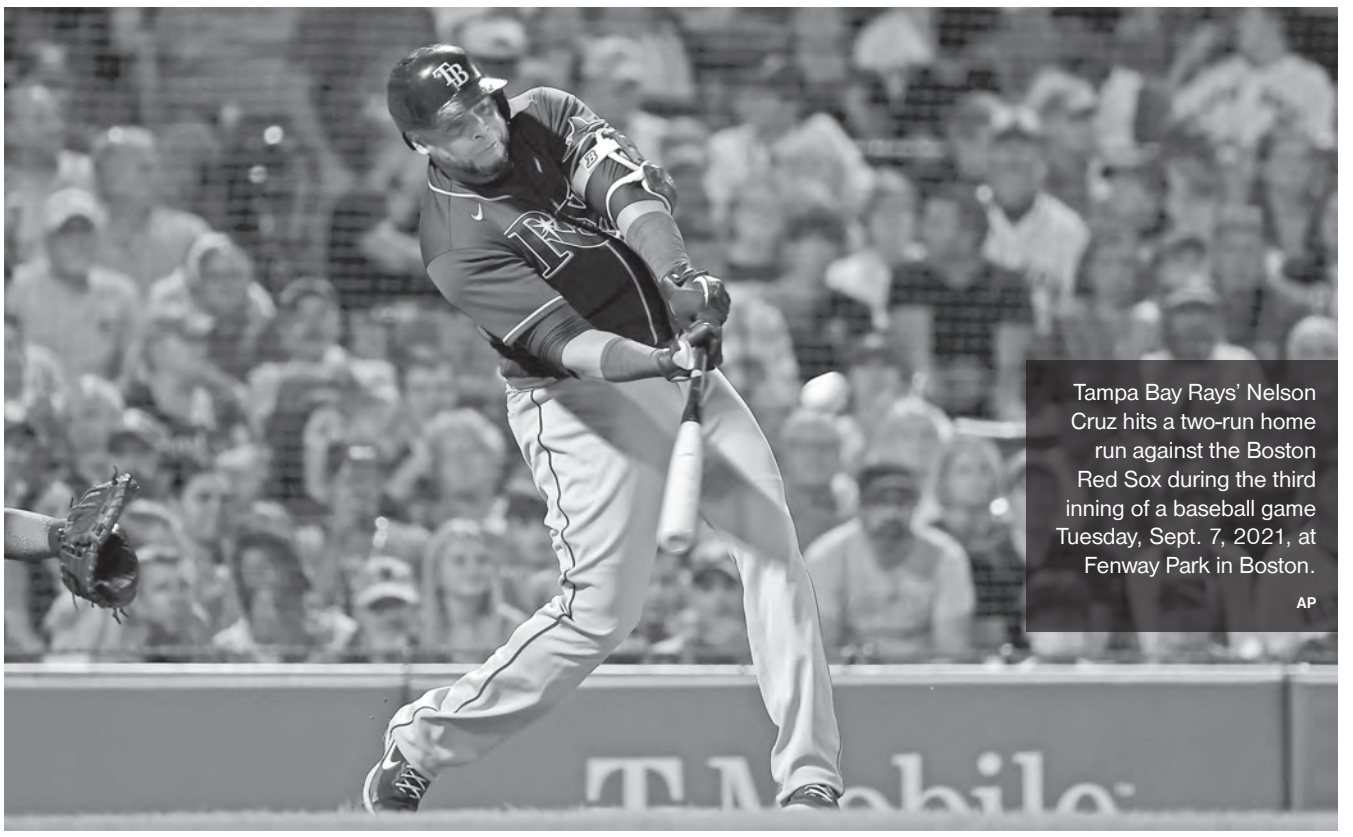
Cruz hit a two-run homer in the third inning and a solo drive in the fifth, giving him 447 in his career and his eighth 30-homer season. He passed David Ortiz (38 in 2016) and Darrell Evans (34 in 1987), who were both 40 when they hit the mark.

Cruz also doubled and singled, driving in four runs and scoring three.

Boston's Bobby Dalbec hit a pair of two-run homers. Danny Santana also homered for the Red Sox.

Drew Rasmussen (2-1) got the win, going five innings, allowing one run on six hits with no walks and two strikeouts.

Eduardo Rodriguez (11-8) lasted just 3 2/3 innings, matching season highs with six runs and two home runs allowed.



Tampa Bay Rays' Nelson Cruz hits a two-run home run against the Boston Red Sox during the third inning of a baseball game Tuesday, Sept. 7, 2021, at Fenway Park in Boston.

AP

Blue Jays 5, Yankees 1

In New York, Marcus Semien homered again, Alejandro Kirk went deep twice and surging Toronto beat skidding New York after Yankees Gerrit Cole exited early with a hamstring injury.

Cole (14-7) was pulled in the fourth inning with left hamstring tightness. He allowed three runs, two earned, and five hits in 3 2/3 innings.

Semien extended his career high with his 38th homer and seventh against the Yankees this year It was the sixth homer in six games for Semien.

Toronto won its sixth straight and for the ninth time in 10 games. New York dropped its fourth straight.

Steven Matz (11-7) allowed one run over six innings and matched his career high for wins. He struck out six, walked none and withstood several long outs to the warning track.

Reds 4, Cubs 3

In Chicago, Wade Miley pitched seven effective innings, Nick Castellanos homered and Cincinnati got a sorely needed victory, topping Chicago.

Cincinnati had dropped seven of nine to lose ground in the NL playoff race. The Reds began the day one game back of San Diego for the second wild card.

They rebounded behind Miley (12-5), who allowed one run and five hits, struck out eight and walked none.

Willson Contreras, Rafael Ortega and Ian Happ homered for Chicago, which had won a season-high seven straight. Happ finished with three hits.

Braves 8, Nationals 5

In Atlanta Ozzie Albies hit a tiebreaking, two-run homer off Ryne Harper in the seventh inning, Adam Duvall took Paolo Espino deep with an early three-run shot, and Atlanta beat Washington.

Albies, who had four RBIs and went deep for the fourth straight game, put the Braves up 5-1 in the fourth with a sacrifice fly.

Luke Jackson (2-2) earned the win after replacing Tyler Matzek. Will Smith recorded his 31st save in 35 chances after facing the minimum in the ninth. Harper (0-2) took the loss.

Yadiel Hernandez hit his eighth homer, a three-run shot, for the Nationals.

Dodgers 7, Cardinals 2

In St. Louis, Albert Pujols homered in his return to Busch Stadium, sending Los Angeles past St. Louis.

Justin Turner homered twice and Will Smith also homered for the playoff-contending Dodgers, who won for the sixth time in eight games. St. Louis has lost five of six.

The 41-year-old Pujols drilled the fourth pitch from J.A. Happ on a line over the wall in left. It was his 679th career home run and 17th of the season.

Alex Vesia (3-1) picked up the win for Los Angeles.

Happ (8-8) allowed four runs on seven hits over five innings. Tyler O'Neill had three hits for St. Louis.

Angels 4, Padres 0

In San Diego, Padres lefthander Blake Snell made another bid at a gem and this one didn't end so well when Los Angeles broke up his no-hit try with two outs in the seventh inning and went on to beat San Diego.

Snell, whos truck out 11 in seven innings, took a perfect game into the seventh before walking two batters and then allowing Jo Adell's two-run single on his 96th pitch. Adell finished with three RBIs.

Snell (7-6) retired the first 18 Angels batters on 66 pitches before walking David Fletcher leading off the seventh. Adell hit a liner to left to end Snell's bid for the no-no and break a scoreless tie.

Jimmy Herget (2-1) pitched two innings for the win.

Mets 9, Marlins 4

In Miami, Pete Alonso hit two home runs, including the 100th of his career, and New York beat Miami to give Carlos Carrasco his first win with the team.

Alonso launched a two-run homer in the first inning for No. 100 and later added a solo shot. Alonso's long ball in the ninth gave him 32 this season.

Carrasco (1-2) threw five innings of four-run ball in his eighth start for the Mets. He gave up seven hits, struck out four and walked one.

Reliever Paul Campbell (1-3) took the loss.

Brewers 10, Phillies 0

In Milwaukee, Eric Lauer allowed four hits in seven innings to lead Milwaukee over Philadelphia.

Avisaíl García hit a two-run homer in his return to the lineup and Eduardo Escobar knocked in three runs as the Brewers maintained their franchise-record 11-game lead in the NL Central over the Cincinnati Reds. Kolten Wong and Christian Yelich added two RBIs each.

Philadelphia fell 2 1/2 games behind the NL East-leading Atlanta Braves.

Lauer (5-5) struck out five and walked one. Hunter Strickland and Miguel Sánchez worked the final two innings to complete the five-hit shutout.

Aaron Nola (7-8) gave up three runs and six hits in five innings while striking out six and walking none for the Phillies.

White Sox 6, Athletics 3

In Oakland, Calif., Gavin Sheets hit a go-ahead RBI single in the fifth, Cesar Hernandez added a two-run single in the same inning, and AL Central-leading Chicago beat stumbling Oakland.

Jimmy Lambert (1-1) allowed three hits over five solid innings for his first major league win in his third career start and six appearance.

Brian Goodwin added a two-run single in the eighth for Chicago.

Elvis Andrus and Starling Marte hit RBI singles in the eighth for the A's.

A.J. Puk (0-3) relieved, gave up three straight singles and took the loss.

Twins 3, Indians 0

In Cleveland, John Gant pitched five solid innings to get his first win since joining Minnesota and spoil Cleveland starter Aaron Civale's return from injury.

Brent Rooker homered for the Twins, who have won six of seven against the Indians.

Gant (5-9) didn't allow a run on three hits. The righthander had been winless since May 26 for St. Louis—a span of 27 appearances. Four Twins relievers finished the combined seven-hitter with Alex Colomé working the ninth for his 13th save.

The Indians failed to homer for the first time in 20 games, ending the longest streak in club history.

The 26-year-old Civale (10-3) was in command until the Twins scored in the fifth on a two-out RBI single by Andrelton Simmons.

Pirates 3, Tigers 2

In Pittsburgh, Ben Gamel had a go-ahead two-run single in the sixth inning among his three hits and Pittsburgh dealt Detroit its ninth loss in 13 games.

Gamel also made an outstanding catch in left field, slamming into the fence to take away a potential extra-base hit from Derek Hill with two runners on in the sixth.

Ke'Bryan Hayes added two hits for the Pirates, who have won the first two games of the series following an 0-for-6 trip to Chicago.

Miguel Cabera went 3 for 4 with a double for the Tigers, raising his career hits total to 2,967.

Sam Howard (3-4) got the win and Chris Stratton worked around a leadoff single in the ninth for his third save. Alex Lange (0-2) took the loss.

Orioles 7, Royals 3

In Baltimore, Cedric Mullins homered for the third consecutive game and Baltimore topped Kansas City.

DJ Stewart and Austin Hays also connected for Baltimore, which evened the four-game series at one apiece.

Orioles right-hander Mike Baumann (1-0) made his major league debut in the fifth inning and retired 11 of the 14 batters he faced.

Carlos Santana hit his 19th home run for the Royals, who are 9-4 in their last 13 road games after going 19-37 in their first 46.

Jackson Kowar (0-3) allowed six runs and five hits with seven strikeouts and four walks over six innings.

Astros 5, Mariners 4

In Houston, Carlos Correa drove in the winning run in the 10th inning after Alex Bregman tied the game in the ninth, and Houston rallied past Seattle.

Correa greeted Yohan Ramirez (1-3) with a ground-rule double to right-center, scoring Yuli Gurriel, who started the inning at second.

Bregman had tied it with a two-run home run off Paul Sewald in the bottom of the ninth.

Ryne Stanek (2-4) pitched a perfect 10th for the win.

Kyle Seager hit a solo home run and J.P. Crawford drove in two runs with a double for the Mariners.

Giants 12, Rockies 3

In Denver, Logan Webb pitched effectively for seven innings, Mike Yastrzemski homered and Steve Duggar had two triples among his three hits as NL West-leading San Francisco routed Colorado.

Brandon Crawford added three hits and an RBI. All of Duggar's hits went for extra bases and he drove in three runs. Yastrzemski added a run-scoring single in the ninth, finishing with three RBIs and helping San Francisco to its fifth win in six games.

C.J. Cron had an RBI double for Colorado. Pinch-hitter Joshua Fuentes and Rio Ruiz added RBI singles.

Webb (9-3) allowed three runs on nine hits and struck out six. He helped himself with an RBI double in the second inning.

Rockies starter Chi Chi Gonzalez (3-7) was hit hard from the outset, allowing five runs on eight hits.

Rangers 3, Diamondbacks 1

In Phoenix, Jordan Lyles pitched seven smooth innings in relief, Jason Martin hit a two-run single and Texas handed Arizona its ninth loss in 10 games.

It's a rare three-game winning streak for the last-place Rangers. They'll try to tie their season high of four straight wins on Wednesday.

The Diamondbacks jumped out to a lead in the third when Josh Rojas hit a sacrifice fly that brought home Daulton Varsho.

Lyles (8-11) allowed three hits and one run. He retired 15 of the last 16 batters he faced.

Arizona wasted a solid start from Zac Gallen (2-9), who gave up three runs over 6 2/3 innings. The right-hander allowed six hits and struck out eight.

Leylah Fernandez, 19, reaches US Open semifinals

NEW YORK (AP) — When Leylah Fernandez wins a pivotal point at the U.S. Open—and she's won enough of them to become the tournament's youngest semifinalist since Maria Sharapova in 2005—the teenager with the exciting game and enthusiasm to match raises her right fist or windmills her arms, firing up herself and the crowd.

What often happens next, after good points or bad, is just as important to the success of the unseeded Canadian left-hander with the quick reflexes: She'll turn her back to the court and her opponent, face the wall behind the baseline for a few moments, gather herself and repeat whatever that day's mantra of choice is.

During Tuesday's 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (5) victory against No. 5 seed Elina Svitolina in Arthur Ashe Stadium, which followed wins over past U.S. Open champions and former No. 1s Naomi Osaka and Angelique Kerber, Fernandez focused on self-belief.

"I was only thinking of trusting myself, trusting my game. After every point, win or lose, I would always tell myself, 'Trust my game. Go for my shots. Just see where the ball goes,'" said Fernandez, who turned 19 on Monday and had never been past the third round in her previous half-dozen major appearances. "I see what I'm feeling. I see if there's one phrase that really catches me or that makes me more motivated than the others. I just keep it throughout the match."

It's working.

Another Canadian moved into the semifinals when 21-year-old Felix Auger-Aliassime's opponent Tuesday night, 18-year-old Carlos Alcaraz of Spain, stopped playing in the second set while trailing 6-3, 3-1 because of an issue with a muscle in his right leg. Alcaraz was coming off two five-set wins in a row—including against No. 3 seed Stefanos Tsitsipas—that made him the youngest male quarterfinalist in New York since 1963.

"It's really tough to end a great tournament like this," Alcaraz said, "but I had no choice."

The 12th-seeded Auger-Aliassime is the first man from Canada to reach the U.S. Open semifinals and plays No. 2 Daniil Medvedev next. Medvedev, a 25-year-old from Russia, earned a spot in the final four at Flushing Meadows for the third consecutive year by stopping the surprising run of Dutch qualifier Botic van de Zandschulp 6-3, 6-0, 4-6, 7-5.

With no players from the United States left to pull for, U.S. Open fans are adopting their neighbors from the North—although the 73rd-ranked Fernandez actually is based in Florida after being born in Montreal to a Filipino Canadian mother and an Ecuadorian father.

Leylah Fernandez, of Canada, reacts after defeating Elina Svitolina, of Ukraine, during the quarterfinals of the US Open tennis championships, Tuesday, Sept. 7, 2021, in New York. AP

Fernandez's father is also her coach but isn't in New York; he stayed home for what Fernandez called "personal reasons" and is offering tips in daily phone conversations.

"I called him right after the match, when I went to the locker room," she said. "He honestly told me that I put him through hell and back with this match."

And the spectators loved every minute of it.

"Thanks to you, I was able to push through today," she told the crowd after edging Svitolina, the Tokyo Olympics bronze medalist who's been to two Grand Slam semifinals, including at the 2019 U.S. Open.

Truth is, Fernandez likes the spotlight.

Asked whether she's more nervous against a top player in a big arena or a lower-ranked player at a smaller site, her reply was simple: "There's no difference."

Hard to argue that right now.

It was touch-and-go down the stretch—even after Fernandez grabbed the opening set, even after she led 5-2 in the third. One way in which she held a clear advantage: Of points that lasted more than eight shots, Fernandez won 26, Svitolina 16.

Five times, Fernandez was two points from winning but failed to collect the next point. Finally, at 5-all in the tiebreaker, she moved to match point when she smacked a down-the-line passing shot that got past Svitolina with the help of a bounce off the net tape.

Fernandez gestured as if to say, "Sorry about that," while Svitolina put a hand to her mouth in dismay.

"A little bit lucky," Fernandez said later. "But I'll take all the luck I can get."

Svitolina's backhand contributed to her undoing late, and when a return from that side landed long, it was over. Fernandez dropped to her knees at the baseline and covered her face; Svitolina walked around the net to come over for a hug.

Next on this magical ride for Fernandez will come yet another test against a player who is ranked higher and has more experience on the sport's biggest stages. On Thursday, she will play No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka, a Wimbledon semifinalist in July, who defeated French Open champion Barbora Krejcikova 6-1, 6-4 at night.

Waiting for her night match, Sabalenka said she practiced during Fernandez vs. Svitolina, "and we didn't really need to watch the score because we heard the crowd really yelling."

Krejcikova was the only woman remaining in the field who already has a Grand Slam title.

But she said her play was affected against Sabalenka by "not really being in a perfect shape" after dealing with cramps and dizziness in her fourth-round win Sunday over two-time major champ Garbiñe Muguruza. Krejcikova took a medical timeout late in the match, then took her time between points down the stretch, and Muguruza told her that behavior was "so unprofessional."

Asked about that Tuesday, Krejcikova said: "I got really humiliated by a Grand Slam champion, which I've never seen."

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	88	51	.633	_
New York	78	60	.565	9½
Boston	79	62	.560	10
Toronto	75	62	.547	12
Baltimore	44	93	.321	43

Central Division

Chicago	80	58	.580	_
Cleveland	68	68	.500	11
Detroit	65	75	.464	16
Kansas City	62	76	.449	18
Minnesota	61	77	.442	19

West Division

Houston	81	57	.587	_
Seattle	75	64	.540	6½
Oakland	74	64	.536	7
Los Angeles	69	70	.496	12½
Texas	50	88	.362	31

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	73	64	.533	_
Philadelphia	71	67	.514	2½
New York	70	69	.504	4
Miami	57	81	.413	16½
Washington	57	81	.413	16½

Central Division

Milwaukee	85	55	.607	_
Cincinnati	74	66	.529	11
St. Louis	69	68	.504	14½
Chicago	64	76	.457	21
Pittsburgh	50	89	.360	34½

West Division

San Francisco	89	50	.640	_
Los Angeles	88	51	.633	1
San Diego	73	65	.529	15½
Colorado	63	76	.453	26
Arizona	45	94	.324	44

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KAMIKAZE

From Page 20

"Using the carts doesn't make the round much easier. It just made the round much faster for most of us. I think for the most part it would have been more interesting to see what the scores would be if we were walking. But the good thing is everyone was out there grinding and doing their best regardless of the outcome of the scores and that's what I was really looking forward to is to see everyone's competitive side," he said.

In the women's division, Nirimai Koebel paced the field with a 92. She totaled a 47 in the front nine and a 45 in the back. Lorraine Babauta came in second with a 94 (52-42), while Rose Rohringer completed the Top 3 with a 95 (46-49), including a birdie in hole No. 3.

In the male junior division, Li Zhi Yun shot an 89 to beat Joey "Kazu" Dela Cruz. Li had a 42 in his first nine holes before retiring with a 47 in his last nine that included a birdie in hole No. 17. Dela Cruz shot a 99 (50-49).

Zhimin Jin, meanwhile, topped the female junior division after she finished with an 85 built around 43 in the front nine and 42 in the back. She birdied hole No. 7. Soarin Oh was the only other finisher in the category and she came away with a 111 (59-52).

ALBERT

From Page 20

That handicap was quickly extinguished though as The Game held on to an 88-85 win in Game 1 last Sunday despite giving up a 21-point lead then rallied from 15 points down in Game 2 to shock the Sixers, 81-80, later that day.

"Not to say that the Sixers isn't a good team because they are hell of a great team, but I knew that we lost the eliminations game against them because we were mentally defeated from the start of the game and we couldn't recover from that until the final minutes which was just a little too late," said Albert.

That loss was what Albert used to fire up his players and they worked extra hard to make it to the championship round so could they could face their tormentors again and avenge that Aug. 29 beating.

"I spoke to the team and gave them a mission that whatever happens we need to be able to play them again and prove that we can win it all. Even if they will be in position as the favorites with a twice-to-beat advantage. Our loss actually ignited a fire on our team and we had a common goal of making it to the finals to be able to play the Sixers again. We knew back then it was going to be hard because we still needed to win against either the mighty Ol'Aces or the veteran team of Blue Haus. Props to our team even coming in the finals with only half of the team we got the job done. We just played with what hand we were dealt with so to speak," he said.

The Game played minus high-flying guard Mac Mintac and veteran slotman Dennis Mendiola.

"It was really tiring but it was worth it in the end. I give props to the other team. It was a really hard win. Props also to my team as they really did a good job," added Albert.

The Game coach was also worried when his main big man, Joe, had to be subbed out with less than 10 seconds into the second game with an apparent leg injury.

"When we saw him coming down holding his knee I said 'man, this might be over for us.' Even today we only have half our team, we just gotta keep on playing and that's how it is," he said.

But Joe came back and played crucial minutes, finishing with a double-double with 11 points and 13 rebounds to back-stop Finals MVP Richard McWilliams, who had a monster 28-point and 7-rebound outing in Game 2. Jeff Sagum also starred in the win, as the athletic swingman followed up his game-high 25 points in the first game with a 20-point, 10-rebound performance in Game 2.

FINALE

From Page 20

SSC coach Richard Sikkel, however, doesn't count out an upset in the Sept. 25 race that could shake up the final standings in the world championship qualifiers.

"We didn't keep a running total because it comes down to the last race. Jin and Jun are the favorites in the men's race. In the women's it will be interesting to see who comes out on top. Asaka has a good chance, Shoko too, but Jinie [Thompson] might throw a monkey wrench in a Tsunami sweep. Taiyo [Akimaru], Jakey [Deleon Guerrero], and Savita [Sikkel] are the dark horses," he said.

This will mark Thompson's first appearance in the Triple Crown Open Water Swim Series as she's been off-island the past couple of months.

Aside from the 1,000m qualifying race for the world championships, other races on the table are 20m for beginners, 50m for intermediate, 100m for advanced, 500m open, 1,000m open, and 1,500m open.

Like the first two editions of the Triple Crown Open Water Swim Series, the Sept. 25 race will held in the waters off Guma Sakman/500 Sails beach. An awards ceremony will be held after the race.

Those who are interested in joining the open water swim only have until Sept. 23 to sign up.

Registration and more information about the Triple Crown Open Water Swim Series can be accessed via https://www.webscorer.com/register?raceid=252694&fbclid=IwAR0ZGVFRv_dfGXIrtHVGEA5fo-3c2Q9juVa6FlpHstsFyYPmv-VgnKRzC1jsg.

Nelson Cruz oldest to hit 30 HRs, Rays beat Red Sox, 12-7

PAGE 18

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Leylah Fernandez, 19, reaches US Open semifinals

PAGE 19

Kamikaze tops 2nd Mini Games tryout

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Many time national golfer Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho topped the second tryout for the CNMI National Golf Team for the 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games last Sunday at the Coral Ocean Resort.

The 60-year-old Camacho fired a 6-over par 78 and was the only golfer Sunday to finish under 80. He started well with a 2-over par 38 in the front nine with birdies in holes No. 4 and 5. Camacho then fired a 4-over 40 in the back nine with his lone birdie coming in the 18th and final hole.

Coming in second in the men's division of the Commonwealth Federation of Golf Associations-organized tryout was Franco Santos who came away with an 8-over 80 built around identical 40s in the first and last nine holes. He had a lone birdie in the 18th, just like Camacho.

Third place went to Fred Salaveria who finished a stroke above Santos with a 9-over 81. He started terribly with a 7-over 43 in the front nine before somehow steadying the ship in the back nine with a 2-over 38.

Participants of the second tryout for the CNMI National Golf Team for the 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games last Sunday at the Coral Ocean Resort pose for a group photo. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Camacho told *Saipan Tribune* that as always his biggest problem last Sunday at the Agingan golf course was his unfamiliarity with the setup at COP.

"Pretty much everything except for the putting was working. COP's greens are the main challenge and not just for me but I guess for the entire field. I just don't play there enough to get a better understanding on how to play the course because all golf courses have their own unique challenges and it's what brings you back so you can overcome those challenges," he said.

CFoGA president and CNMI Attorney General Edward Manibusan seconded Camacho on the challenges posed by COP.

"Coral Ocean Resort is challenging our golfers to use their skills and talents. I am sure the golfers are anxious to shoot a better round at the next tryout," he said.

Camacho added that CFoGA allowing the use of golf carts after outlawing them in the first tryout didn't really help golfers improve their scores.

See KAMIKAZE on Page 19

Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho, seen here in a file photo, topped the second tryout organized by the Commonwealth Federation of Golf Associations for next year's Mini Games. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Albert: Loss ignited championship run

The Game center Eric Joe goes up against San Antonio Sixers' Gerald Flores and Josh Andrew as teammate Richard McWilliams look on in Game 1 of the NMI Rollers Basketball Association's Inaugural NMI Rollers Men's Basketball Tournament championship last Sunday at the Koblerville Gymnasium. MARK RABAGO

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Game head coach Clint Albert pretty much used their loss to the San Antonio Sixers last Aug. 29 as bulletin board material going into the championship of the NMI Rollers Basketball Association's Inaugural NMI Rollers Men's Basketball Tournament last Sunday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

The Sixers bludgeoned Albert's wards the first time they met, 90-79, and The Game players took note of that beating when they advanced to the championship game with long odds. As the top-notcher of the eliminations phase after going undefeated, the Sixers had a twice-to-beat advantage against The Game.

See ALBERT on Page 19

Saipan Swim Club SSC coach Richard Sikkel makes last-minute instructions in the Triple Crown Open Water Swim Series last July 10 in the waters off Civic Center Beach in Susupe. MARK RABAGO

Finale of Triple Crown Open Water Swim Series on Sept. 25

By MARK RABAGO
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The final installment of Saipan Swim Club's Triple Crown Open Water Swim Series that will determine the CNMI's delegation to the 2021 FINA World Championships will be held this coming Sept. 25.

The Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation-sanctioned events will choose four swimmers (top two men and top two women) that will represent the CNMI in the world championships in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates this coming December.

So far, Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan bets Jinnosuke Suzuki and Juhn Tenorio are leading in the men's qualifiers. Ditto for their teammates and sisters Asaka and Shoko Litulumar.

See FINALE on Page 19